

elder financially and a number of other provisions.

For a full rundown of Illinois' new laws, visit the Illinois Review.

Thought for the Day:
"Several excuses are always less convincing than one."
— *Aldous Huxley*

New law increases health standards in Illinois nursing homes

A new law sponsored by State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) aimed at increasing resident safety in nursing homes went into effect on January 1, 2012.

The legislature passed House Bill 1096 to require nursing home facilities to implement policies for disease and infection control. Each facility will also be required to designate at least one person as an Infection Prevention and Control Professional in charge of implementing these policies.

"Infections are the number one cause of disease and death in nursing homes and for the most part, can be prevented," Feigenholtz said. "Residents should be protected from negligent practices in long-term care facilities. This legislation ensures that disease prevention is a priority of every nursing home in the

Existing law requires incoming nursing home residents to be verbally screened for communicable diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. The new law mandates that a staff member be held responsible for these screenings and develop policies to control infectious disease.

"Every family in Illinois deserves the comfort of knowing that if they need to place a loved one or themselves in a long-term care facility, they will be kept safe and healthy," said Feigenholtz. "Illinois families can sleep a little better tonight knowing that this latest step in nursing home reform is in place. Patient safety is the number one concern."

SENIOR NEWS

Are Your Medications Right for You?

Are you taking a PIM? That's a Potentially Inappropriate Medication. New research at Cornell University revealed that 38 percent of seniors getting home health care are taking medications that aren't effective or safe, or aren't appropriate for seniors.

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