

Senate Bill 415

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Shafer of the 48th,
Black of the 8th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to require
3 nursing homes in this state to have backup power sources in the event of power outages; to
4 provide for requirements; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation and
9 construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, is amended in Article 2, relating to
10 the Georgia Building Authority, by redesignating Code Section 31-7-22 as Code Section
11 31-7-23 and by adding a new Code section to the end of Article 1, relating to regulation of
12 hospitals and related institutions, to read as follows:

13 "31-7-22.

14 (a) On and after March 31, 2019, each nursing home in this state shall have and maintain
15 a backup power source to provide power in the event of a power outage. Such backup
16 power source shall be capable of providing power to the entire facility for a duration
17 specified by the department to provide lighting in all patient rooms, common areas, exits,
18 stairs, and corridors; to maintain critical safety systems such as telephones, fire detection,
19 and suppression systems; to operate HVAC systems to maintain safe temperatures for the
20 protection of patients; to operate refrigeration units for safe handling of food and
21 medications; and to support all essential services for patients. Each facility shall establish
22 and implement a routine maintenance plan to ensure the operation of the backup power
23 source in the event of a power outage.

24 (b) The department shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement
25 the provisions of this Code section."

26

SECTION 2.

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.