

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 SESSION

## CHAPTER 552

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 63.1-172 and 63.1-174.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to compliance with Uniform Statewide Building Code.*

[S 438]

Approved April 15, 1998

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 63.1-172 and 63.1-174.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 63.1-172. Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Adult care residence" means any place, establishment, or institution, public or private, operated or maintained for the maintenance or care of four or more adults who are aged, infirm or disabled and who are cared for in a primarily residential setting, except (i) a facility or portion of a facility licensed by the State Board of Health or the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, but including any portion of such facility not so licensed, and (ii) the home or residence of an individual who cares for or maintains only persons related to him by blood or marriage, and (iii) a facility or portion of a facility serving infirm or disabled persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, or twenty-two if enrolled in an educational program for the handicapped pursuant to § 22.1-214, when such facility is licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services as a child-caring institution under Chapter 10 (§ 63.1-195 et seq.) of this title, but including any portion of the facility not so licensed. Included in this definition are any two or more places, establishments or institutions owned or operated by a single entity and providing maintenance or care to a combined total of four or more aged, infirm or disabled adults.

"Assisted living" means a level of service provided by an adult care residence for adults who may have physical or mental impairments and require at least a moderate level of assistance with activities of daily living.

"Independent physician" means a physician who is chosen by the resident of the adult care residence and who has no financial interest in the adult care residence, directly or indirectly, as an owner, officer, or employee or as an independent contractor with the residence.

"Independently mobile" means a resident of an adult care residence who is physically and mentally able to exit the residence without assistance in an emergency and who can ascend or descend stairs if present in any necessary exit path.

"Maintenance or care" means the protection, general supervision and oversight of the physical and mental well-being of the aged, infirm or disabled individual.

"Nonambulatory" means a resident of an adult care residence who by reason of physical or mental impairment is unable to exit the residence in an emergency without the assistance of another person.

"Qualified assessor" means an entity contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screening or to complete the uniform assessment instrument for a home and community-based waiver program, including an independent physician contracting with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to complete the uniform assessment instrument for residents of adult care residences, or any hospital which has contracted with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to perform nursing facility pre-admission screenings.

"Residential living" means a level of service provided by an adult care residence for adults who may have physical or mental impairments and require only minimal assistance with the activities of daily living. This definition includes independent living facilities that voluntarily become licensed.

"Semimobile" means a resident of an adult care residence who because of physical or mental impairment requires limited assistance, such as the assistance of a wheelchair, walker, cane, prosthetic device, or a single verbal command, to exit the residence in an emergency.

§ 63.1-174.1. Compliance with Uniform Statewide Building Code.

A. Buildings licensed for ~~independently mobile residents~~, ~~semimobile ambulatory~~ residents or nonambulatory residents shall be classified by and meet the specifications for the proper Use Group as required by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

B. For purposes of such licensure, ambulatory means the condition of a resident who is physically and mentally capable of self-preservation by evacuating in response to an emergency to a refuge area as defined by the Uniform Statewide Building Code without the assistance of another person, or from the structure itself without the assistance of another person if there is no such refuge area within the structure, even if such resident may require the assistance of a wheelchair, walker, cane, prosthetic device, or a single verbal command to evacuate. Nonambulatory means the condition of a resident who by reason of physical or mental impairment is not capable of self-preservation without the assistance of another person.

**2. That the State Board of Social Services shall promulgate regulations to implement this act to be effective within 280 days of the enactment of this act.**