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To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: Senate Bill 507 (Division of Consumer Protection - Assisted Living Programs):
Support with Amendments

The Office of the Attorney General supports Senate Bill 507. The bill would require assisted living programs that have been appointed as representative payees for residents' Social Security benefits to file annual reports with the Consumer Protection Division. The representative payees would be required to report on the use of Social Security benefits by the residents, as well as report on the use by the residents of other federal, state, or local government funds that were allocated for the purpose of assisting individuals who are aged, disabled, or blind.

The Division currently receives referrals of alleged unfair, abusive or deceptive trade practices by assisted living programs from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ). We have spoken with the bill's sponsor about clarifying amendments to ensure the referrals continue, whether or not OHCQ refers the same allegations to the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health. We are submitting a friendly amendment based on our discussions with the sponsor for submission to the subcommittee.

We urge the Committee to give Senate Bill 507 a favorable report with amendments.

cc: Sponsor