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LeadingAge Southeast and Mississippi-Louisiana Assisted Living Association Applaud House Passage of Senate Bill 145 to Strengthen Emergency Preparedness in Louisiana Senior Living Communities

Baton Rouge, LA – May 27, 2026 – LeadingAge Southeast and the Mississippi-Louisiana Assisted Living Association (MS|LALA) applauded the Louisiana House of Representatives for passing Senate Bill 145 by Senator Glen Womack, advancing legislation that will strengthen emergency preparedness standards and enhance resident safety in adult residential care communities across the state.

The legislation requires licensed Adult Residential Care Providers to maintain reliable backup power solutions capable of supporting critical operations during power outages and extreme weather events. The bill allows providers flexibility in how they meet the requirements, including permanently installed generators, mobile or contracted units, shared systems, and other engineered emergency power solutions.

LeadingAge Southeast and MS|LALA have remained actively involved throughout the development and advancement of the legislation, working alongside the Louisiana Legislature and Department of Health to help ensure the bill reflects both strong resident protections and practical implementation standards for providers.

“Resident safety is always our top priority, and Senate Bill 145 establishes important safeguards to help protect older adults when severe weather or power outages occur,” said Steve Bahmer, President and CEO of LeadingAge Southeast. “We appreciate the Louisiana House of Representatives for their unanimous approval of this thoughtful, common-sense legislation that recognizes both the importance of preparedness and the operational realities providers face.”

If enacted, the bill will require providers to maintain backup power capabilities sufficient to sustain essential operations for at least 72 hours, including life safety systems, medical equipment, medication refrigeration, food storage, water and sewer functions, and temperature control systems necessary to protect residents from extreme heat or cold.

The legislation also requires facilities without permanent generators to maintain rapid connection systems for mobile units and annually update emergency preparedness plans detailing backup power and fuel logistics.

“MS|LALA is proud to have collaborated throughout this process to help produce a bill that strengthens preparedness while remaining achievable for providers across Louisiana,” said Sharla Aloisio, Chief Executive Director of MS|LALA. “We’re grateful to the Louisiana House of Representatives for supporting providers and the residents they serve. This bill represents a significant step forward in helping communities better prepare for emergencies while ensuring older adults continue to receive safe, uninterrupted care.”

Having passed both the Senate and the House, the bill will now go to Governor Jeff Landry for his signature.

LeadingAge Southeast and MS|LALA will continue serving as resources for providers as communities prepare for future compliance requirements and enhanced emergency preparedness standards.

For more information about LeadingAge Southeast, visit www.leadingagesoutheast.org. For more information about MS|LALA, visit www.mslala.org.

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About LeadingAge Southeast

Established in 1963, LeadingAge Southeast is the premier association serving high-quality senior living providers across the continuum of care in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Association provides up-to-date regulatory information, a wide variety of educational opportunities, representation before the Legislature and government agencies, group purchasing services, and opportunities for networking with peers to help member communities best serve the needs of older adults.

About Mississippi-Louisiana Assisted Living Association

The Mississippi-Louisiana Assisted Living Association (MS|LALA) represents senior living providers across Mississippi and Louisiana. Guided by its mission of protecting and advancing senior living, MS|LALA focuses on legislation, regulation, and education while supporting members through advocacy, training, and strategic partnerships. The Association is committed to strengthening the industry and enhancing quality of life for residents and those who serve them.