

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 532 (Delegate Stukes, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living
Facilities - Duties

This bill requires the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities to include consideration of the quality of life in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior independent living facilities in its evaluation of the progress in improving nursing home care quality and assisted living facility quality.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The oversight committee is charged with evaluating progress in improving nursing home care quality and assisted living facility quality statewide, including consideration of • quality of care standards; • standards for the identification of the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease; • standards for the identification of conditions appropriate for hospice services; • staffing patterns and staffing standards; • policies and procedures for inspecting facilities and responding to quality of care complaints; • a comparison of Maryland standards, policies, and procedures to those in other states; • available nursing and nursing aide labor; • State funding mechanisms and regulation of nursing homes; and • the provision and quality of mental and behavioral health care services.

The Office of Health Care Quality has to submit an annual report to the oversight committee on the status of quality of care, while the Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must report annually on the status of the Medicaid Nursing Home Reimbursement System.

The oversight committee must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 of each year. The oversight committee is staffed by the Department of Aging, with assistance from DHMH, the Department of Human Resources, and the Department of Legislative Services.

Background: The Interagency Committee on Aging Services, established by Chapters 101 and 330 of 1982, plans coordination of State and local services covering employment, health, housing, social services, and transportation for Maryland's elderly. Meeting quarterly, the committee devises programs to assess the needs of elderly persons and their caregivers and provide services. The committee also has established a service system for frail or health-impaired elderly persons at risk of institutionalization.

Senior independent living facilities include retirement communities, congregate living, and senior apartments. Some facilities offer minimal amenities, while others offer extensive recreational and social activities and personal services such as housekeeping, laundry, and transportation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Aging, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

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