



*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary*

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 897 – Maryland Department of Health – Residential Agencies – Training Requirements – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill 897 – Maryland Department of Health – Residential Agencies – Training Requirements (SB 897).

SB 897 requires all staff who work within a residential service agency to receive six hours of training relating to dementia within 45 day of being hired. Additionally, the bill enacts new continuing education requirements for all staff who work in these programs. The bill would take effect October 1, 2020.

In order to ensure that each of these training programs meet the SB 897 requirements, including ensuring that the training courses reflect evidence-based practices, the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) within the Department would need to review the curriculum, determine if the trainer meets the requirements, and attend each program to ensure the teaching methods are effective. This is the same type of process followed by the Health Occupation Boards, Commissions, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission in reviewing similar educational programs. For online programs, we need to verify the security and integrity of the system. To accomplish these activities, OHCQ needs to hire 7 Nursing Instructors, 1 Nursing Program Consultant II, 1 Administrative Officer I, and a 0.5 FTE Computer Network Specialist I.

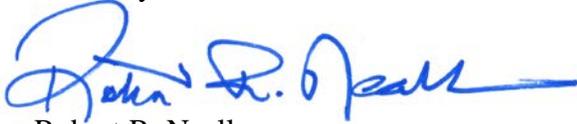
This bill would also require the Department to provide a list of training programs that provide this training and to ensure that the training reflects evidence-based practice in the care and treatment of individuals experiencing Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. If OHCQ declines to include or removes a training program from the list of training programs, the trainer may assert a right to due process and appeal the decision. An Assistant Attorney General is required to assist with these appeals. These duties will be absorbed by the existing attorneys assigned to OHCQ.

Additionally, the bill would have a significant impact on State Medicaid rates. The Department sets Medicaid rates for their providers on an annual basis, with rate methodology inclusive of

training and continuing education requirements. The Department estimates an approximate increase in residential service agency provider rates of \$0.25 per hour would be required to offset additional costs. The Department estimates SB 897 would have a fiscal impact of \$753,947 TF (\$376,973 GF, \$376,973 FF) for FY21.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Neall", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary