



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1168 – Maryland Department of Health – Residential Agencies – Training Requirements – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 1168 – Maryland Department of Health – Residential Agencies – Training Requirements (HB 1168).

HB 1168 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 HB 1168 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.

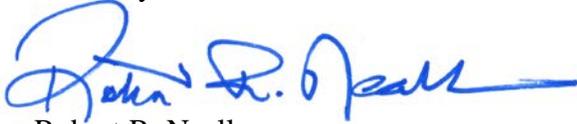
This bill would also require the Department to provide a list of training programs that provide this training and to ensure that the training reflects evidence-based practice in the care and treatment of individuals experiencing Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. If OHCQ declines to include or 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 HB 1168 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.

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