



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1168 – Maryland Department of Health - Residential Service Agencies - Training Requirements

SPONSOR: Delegate Sample-Hughes, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2020

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1168**, which requires each residential service agency to ensure staff and supervisors receive online or in-person training on dementia and four hours of continuing education training on dementia annually. The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Health to provide a list of training programs to each residential agency that provide training that reflects evidence-based practice in the care and treatment of individuals experiencing Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

The senior population in Prince George's has rapidly increased. In a five-year period (between 2013 and 2018), there was a 26-percent increase in County residents ages 65 and older. Of the approximately 120,000 residents in the County ages 65 and older, about 11,000 or more than 9% have a cognitive disability, and 15% of County residents ages 75 and older have a cognitive disability.

Given the large population of County residents at risk of being affected by a cognitive disability, Prince George's County is committed to ensuring that a sufficient cadre of competent residential service providers are available to these individuals. Providers at residential service agencies should be well-versed in caring for people with dementia, as most of their clients are vulnerable adults.

Prince George's County supports efforts to increase knowledge and awareness of dementia among health care providers. For these reasons, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1168** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.