



**2022 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: **HB 1072 – Assisted Living Program Licensing – Notice of Applicant Located in Common Ownership Community**

COMMITTEE: **Environment and Transportation Committee**

POSITION: **Letter of Concern**

BILL ANALYSIS: **HB 1072 will require the Secretary of Health, if a certain licensure application for a certain assisted living program is received by their office, to notify the local Health Officer of the jurisdiction in which the program would operate; the Health Officer shall determine whether the assisted living program is to be operated within a common ownership community; and, if it is determined to be in such community, shall send notice of the application to the governing body of the county and the governing body of the common ownership community.**

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) provides a letter of concern for HB 1072.

In Maryland, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH)'s Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) licenses and regulates assisted living programs in the state. While some federal rules and regulations may apply to assisted living programs, state-level coordination and regulation ensures a coordinated, comprehensive licensure system.

On the local level, local health departments (LHDs) are tasked with protecting and improving the health and safety of county residents. While services provided by local health departments are varied, local Health Officers do not possess the expertise to make determinations regarding the licensing and regulating of assisted living programs. LHDs will need to hire additional staff in order to do the work required of them in this bill and there is no funding source for this work.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of concern for HB 1072. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmajora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*