SB 677 Maryland Health Care Commission – Nursing Homes Audit
FAVORABLE
Senate Finance Committee
March 17, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Kelley and members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the country. AARP Maryland and its more than 850,000 members support SB 677. We thank Senator Kelley for sponsoring this bill and championing long term care improvements.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

This bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), by December 1, 2023, and each December 1 thereafter, to conduct a comprehensive audit of cost trends, labor issues, and financial performance for each licensed nursing home in the State. MHCC must use the audit to develop findings by facility type and ownership group, and on an industry-wide basis. In conducting the audit, MHCC must administer an annual survey of the nursing home workforce.

Due to the high cost of long-term services and supports and the high demand for nursing homes, many older adults fear impoverishment and becoming a burden to their families. There is limited third-party coverage to ease this fear. As the baby boom generation ages, the need for these services will increase at a time where there will be fewer family caregivers to provide such care.

We believe an audit of nursing homes may improve labor standards for the direct-care workforce and health outcomes for consumers. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB 677. For follow up or questions please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.