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Bill: HB 874 - State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators - Requirements for Assisted Living Managers

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Date: February 22, 2024

On behalf of the more than 110,000 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's Association supports with amendments *HB 874 - State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators - Requirements for Assisted Living Managers*.

House Bill 874 is extending the date - from October 1, 2024 to July 1, 2026 - by which individuals must be licensed by the State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators before practicing as an assisted living manager in Maryland. It also alters the requirements for the manager training course that assisted living managers are required to complete and alters the requirements for serving as an interim assisted living manager.

In 2023, among older adults nationwide living in residential facilities, including assisted living, 34% have some form of Alzheimer's or other dementias.¹ Dating back to 2006, the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) issued a report stating that residents in Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) are frailer and have more memory issues than when OHCQ began regulating ALFs in 1996.²

In 2022, legislation passed to establish licensure requirements for Assisted Living Managers.³ The Alzheimer's Association supports the improved standard and strengthened oversight for assisted living managers. We also understand the challenges entailed in developing and implementing a new licensure requirement, and we appreciate the Board's submission of their mandated report regarding the status of implementation.⁴

The advocacy community understands that the agreement which produced this current bill was reached through discussions between the Board, LifeSpan, OHCQ, and the Maryland

¹ 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures.

<https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>

² Maryland's Assisted Living Resident Assessment and Level of Care Scoring Tool, 2006.

https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/AL/Docs/AL_Forms/al_tool_guide.pdf

³ SB 720/HB 1034 (2022) - State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators - Renaming, Licensure of Assisted Living Managers, and Penalties.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/sb0720/?ys=2022rs>

⁴ Report on the Status of Assisted Living Manager Licensing Required Under 2022 HB 1034.

[https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDH/SB720Ch690HB1034Ch689\(4\)\(2022\).pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDH/SB720Ch690HB1034Ch689(4)(2022).pdf)

Department of Aging. Unfortunately, the advocacy community was not included in these discussions and the Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests the committee reconsider the length of the extension. While we support an extension to ensure a smooth rollout, we request that the extension be limited to one year - October 1, 2025. Additionally, we urge the committee to consider additional reporting requirements in the Board's annual report on implementation of licensure to include a detailed action plan/timeline and progress towards each step to meet the extended deadline.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.