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HB 933 Nursing Homes - Cost Reports
Senate Finance Committee
April 1, 2025
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I am the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our 850,000 members across the state, I thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of House Bill 933, *Nursing Homes Cost Reports*. We especially thank Delegate Martinez for championing this vital legislation.

At AARP Maryland, our top priority is protecting the health, safety, and dignity of older adults. Many older Marylanders depend on nursing homes for daily care and support. These individuals—some of our most vulnerable citizens—deserve transparency, accountability, and a care system that prioritizes their well-being.

Why HB 933 Matters to Older Marylanders

Chronic understaffing, high turnover, and poor working conditions continue to plague Maryland's nursing homes. These issues directly impact the quality of care received by older residents. Numerous studies show that well-staffed facilities lead to better health outcomes, fewer hospitalizations, and safer environments for residents.

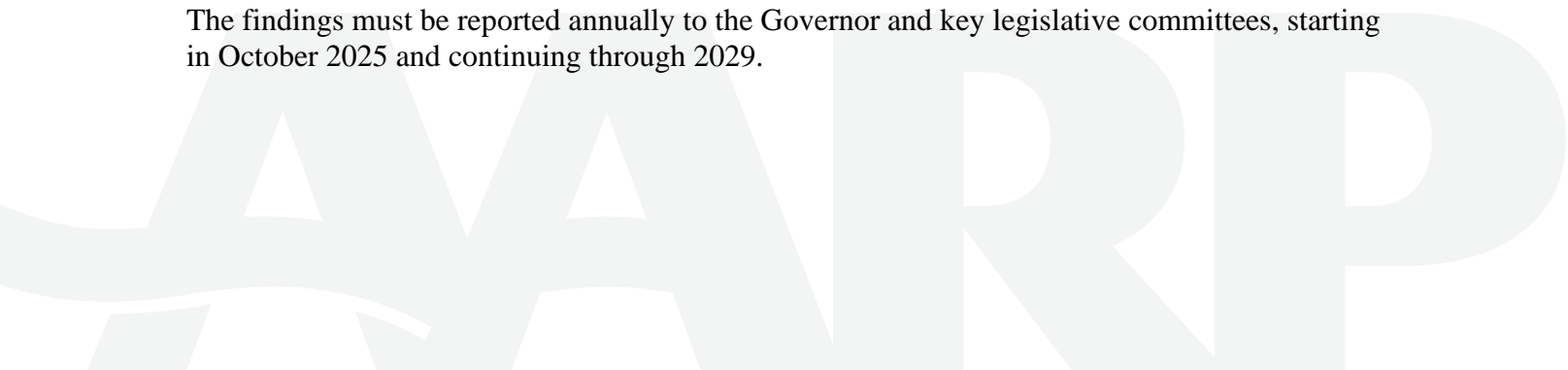
A key contributor to this staffing crisis is low pay and inadequate benefits for direct care workers—certified nursing assistants (CNAs), geriatric nursing assistants (GNAs), housekeepers, dietary staff, and others who provide essential hands-on care. These caregivers form the backbone of long-term care, yet they are often underpaid and overworked. This results in high turnover and inconsistent care, which older Marylanders simply cannot afford.

What HB 933 Will Do

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to review financial cost reports submitted by nursing homes that receive Medicaid funding. These reports must include detailed data on how facilities allocate revenue, particularly in two key areas:

1. Contracted nursing care services; and
2. Salaries and wages of all direct care staff who interact regularly with residents.

The findings must be reported annually to the Governor and key legislative committees, starting in October 2025 and continuing through 2029.



Why Financial Transparency Is Critical

AARP Maryland believes that both public and private resources should be used to directly benefit residents—not to pad profits or cover excessive administrative costs. Transparent cost reporting will help ensure that nursing home funds are being spent where they matter most: on care and support for older adults.

By making financial practices more visible, lawmakers and the public will be better equipped to hold facilities accountable and push for needed reforms.

Conclusion

HB 933 is a commonsense measure that aligns with AARP's core mission: to ensure that older adults in Maryland receive the high-quality, respectful care they deserve. The bill promotes responsible use of taxpayer dollars, improves oversight, and supports the workforce that older residents depend on every day.

AARP Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 933. Let's work together to strengthen long-term care in our state and protect the dignity of older Marylanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or 410-302-8451 with any questions or for further discussion.