

**TO:** Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 938, Continuing Care Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership

**DATE:** March 19, 2025

**POSITION:** Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland <u>supports</u> House Bill 938, Continuing Care Providers - Governing Bodies – Membership.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 159 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Members of LeadingAge Maryland provide health care, housing, and services to more than 20,000 older persons each year. Our mission is to be the trusted voice for aging in Maryland, and our vision is that Maryland is a state where older adults have access to the services they need, when they need them, in the place they call home. LeadingAge Maryland represents the vast majority of CCRCs in the state.

In the event that a governing body of a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), has one resident on its Board of Directors, House Bill 938 requires that an alternate resident or alternate subscriber is appointed by the governing body, and can attend meetings and vote when the regular resident is unable to fulfill their duties.

The bill's requirements for the alternate subscriber member, including the ability to attend meetings and vote when the regular subscriber is unable to fulfill their duties, are reasonable and ensure that the subscriber's voice is consistently represented. We also appreciate the provision requiring the governing body to confer with the resident association before the subscriber or alternate subscriber officially joins the governing body, which promotes collaboration and communication between the provider and its subscribers. The effective date of January 1, 2026 allows LeadingAge Maryland members' time to update their bylaws.

LeadingAge Maryland thanks the Sponsor and the Committee for their ongoing willingness to work with us.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a <u>favorable report</u> on House Bill 938.