



**2026 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: HB 945 - Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation
COMMITTEE: House - Health Committee
POSITION: Letter of Information
BILL ANALYSIS: HB 945 would establish a requirement for the Maryland Department of Health to notify the local health department in a county if an investigation is initiated against a nursing home in that county. The bill would also require MDH to consult and coordinate with the Local Health Officer on the complaint investigation and response.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) submits this letter of information for HB 945. This bill would require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to notify a local health department (LHD) of any investigations related to nursing home complaints in that LHD's jurisdiction. It would also require MDH, to the extent practicable, to consult and coordinate with the Local Health Officer on the complaint investigation and response.

MACHO supports the intent of the bill to strengthen communication and coordination between LHDs and the Office of Health Care Quality at MDH. LHDs and OHCQ each play an important role in supporting nursing home facilities in the state and ensuring the health and appropriate care of nursing home residents. LHDs work closely with nursing home facilities in their jurisdictions on communicable disease prevention, treatment, and outbreak management, as well as supporting these facilities with emergency preparedness and response. OHCQ is responsible for licensure and monitoring the quality of care at nursing facilities, as directed by both the state and federal governments.

In addition to LHDs and OHCQ, several other entities work with nursing homes and nursing home residents, including the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Local Area Agency on Aging, the local Department of Social Services, and the local Department of Community Services, among others. Local Health Officers, as the Chief Health Strategists in their communities, are positioned to support OHCQ by facilitating linkages between these local partners as appropriate. MACHO welcomes the opportunity to work with the Sponsor, the Committee, MDH, and advocates to improve communication and collaboration across sectors to ensure that Maryland residents receive the highest quality care possible.

For these reasons, MACHO respectfully submits this letter of information for HB 945. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*