



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 305
Baltimore, MD 21215

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 931

COMMITTEE: Health

POSITION: Support with Amendments

TITLE: Health Care Facilities – Nursing Homes – Medical Director Requirements

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill will require a physician, in order to be designated as a medical director of a nursing home, to hold a certain medical director certification or be make active progress toward obtaining the certification; prohibit a physician from being a designated medical director at more than two licensed nursing homes; and require the Maryland Department of Health to establish and maintain an online directory of nursing home medical directors.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: Following a comprehensive review of HB 931 and an evaluation of its anticipated impact on the long-term care sector, the Board of Long-Term Care Administrators (the “Board”) supports the proposed legislation with amendments.

The Board recognizes and supports the value of certification by the Post-Acute and Long-Term Medical Association (PALTmed) or its equivalent for medical directors of nursing homes. Although the bill allows for an extension for good cause, we propose extending the deadline for certification for physicians designated as a medical director on or before September 30, 2026, from September 30, 2028, to September 30, 2030. An extension until September 30, 2030, would afford designated medical directors a reasonable and sufficient period to obtain certification, thereby promoting an adequate and sustainable pool of qualified medical directors throughout the State.

The Board also has concerns regarding the proposed restriction on the number of nursing homes for which a physician may serve as medical director. The bill currently limits the number of nursing homes a medical director may serve to no more than two. This limitation may generate unintended and adverse consequences for nursing homes across Maryland. Many nursing homes are presently confronting significant challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified and

experienced medical directors, due in part to the ongoing physician shortage and the limited number of certified professionals available. Implementation of such a restriction could inadvertently compel facilities to appoint less experienced physicians to oversee attending practitioners and manage the increasingly complex clinical and regulatory responsibilities inherent in nursing home operations. We are concerned that these unintended effects may compromise patient safety and diminish the overall quality of care delivered in these settings.

In conclusion, the Board reiterates its support for the PALTmed certification requirements and associated transparency provisions contained in the bill, including the public identification of medical directors on facility websites or within a Maryland registry.

At the same time, we respectfully request adoption of the following amendments to ensure practical and effective implementation of the legislation while preserving access to experienced medical leadership:

1. Page 2, strike lines 22-23
2. Page 3, line 12, strike 2028 and substitute 2030

For these reasons, the Board supports HB 931 and requests a favorable report with the amendments.

If you require more information, you may contact Linda Burrell-Warr, Executive Director, at (410)764-4749 or linda.burrell-warr2@maryland.gov, or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.