



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269  
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm  
facebook.com/aarpm

**HB 931 - Health Care Facilities – Nursing Homes – Medical Director Requirements**  
**House Health Committee**  
**February 26, 2026**  
**FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the House Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 931, a bill that advances safety, accountability, and transparency in Maryland’s nursing homes.

My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, and I am a member of the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, with approximately 850,000 members. We represent the interests of Maryland’s over 50 population, including families who rely on high-quality nursing home and assisted living care. AARP Maryland also has a long history of advocacy on long-term care issues.

HB 931 strengthens Maryland’s current law in several important ways. First, HB 931 adds definitions for “medical director” and “medical director certification.” Second, it limits a physician to serving as medical director for no more than two nursing homes. This is a critical improvement, as one physician would be hard-pressed to provide adequate oversight of more than two long-term care facilities without compromising patient care. This measure protects residents by ensuring the medical director can effectively monitor physician services and clinical performance.

The bill also requires medical directors to be certified or actively making progress toward certification. This ensures that individuals in these roles possess verified competency specific to long-term care leadership. A two-year transition period is provided, which is reasonable and avoids workforce disruption. Additional flexibility is also provided in the rare circumstances where certification cannot be completed on time.

HB 931 also requires MDH to create a publicly accessible online directory of nursing home medical directors. The directory must list name, professional credentials, and certification status. This excellent addition enhances public transparency, facilitates timely oversight, and helps families make informed decisions.

**Conclusion**

HB 931 is a thoughtful and necessary update to Maryland law. It strengthens professional standards and improves oversight, ultimately improving the quality of long-term care in the state. We respectfully request that the Committee issue a favorable report. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.