
By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County - Citizens Nursing Home Board - Selection of Members**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the process by which certain members of the St. Mary's
4 County Citizens Nursing Home Board are selected under certain circumstances;
5 making stylistic changes; and generally relating to the selection of members to
6 the St. Mary's County Citizens Nursing Home Board.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article 25 - County Commissioners
9 Section 254
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article 25 - County Commissioners**

15 254.

16 (a) The board of county commissioners or county council of every county in
17 this State may establish a citizens nursing home board.

18 (b) (1) The board shall consist of ten members; and the initial members
19 shall be appointed by the county commissioners or county council; three members to
20 be appointed for three years, three for two years, three for one year.

21 (2) Members shall be chosen from among the residents of the county.

22 (3) One member of the board of county commissioners or county council
23 shall be a member of the board, ex officio, as chosen by the board of county
24 commissioners or county council from time to time.

25 (4) (I) [As] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
26 PARAGRAPH, AS the terms of the initial appointees expire or as vacancies occur, their

1 successors shall be elected by a majority vote or quorum of the board for terms of
2 three years or the remainder thereof; and hereafter, these positions shall be so filled.

3 (II) IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, AS THE TERMS OF THE INITIAL
4 APPOINTEES EXPIRE OR AS VACANCIES OCCUR, THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL BE
5 APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY FOR A TERM
6 OF 3 YEARS IF A TERM EXPIRES, OR THE REST OF THE TERM IF A TERM IS VACATED.

7 (c) The members of the board shall serve without compensation.

8 (d) The board shall establish, maintain, and operate a nursing or convalescent
9 home or homes and any other facilities and services necessary for the proper care and
10 treatment of aged, convalescent, and chronically ill residents of the county and shall
11 have the following powers and duties:

12 (1) To accept gifts, legacies, bequests or endowments for purposes of the
13 board. Unless otherwise specified by the donor making such gift, legacy, bequest or
14 endowment, the board, in its discretion, may expend both principal and income of any
15 such gift, bequest, legacy or endowment to support the board's nursing home
16 program;

17 (2) To acquire and hold real and personal property in the name of the
18 county commissioners by any means, to sell or otherwise dispose of such property so
19 acquired, and to preserve and administer such properties;

20 (3) To provide adequate facilities and services for the care and treatment
21 of the aged, convalescent, and chronically ill citizens of the county. These facilities and
22 services will or may include physical care, medical, nursing, recreational,
23 rehabilitative, special education, and other similar activities, and, in addition,
24 dissemination of information relative to causes and prevention of chronic and
25 debilitating illnesses;

26 (4) To charge such fees for admission to and maintenance in such
27 facilities and for use of such services as may support the facilities and services
28 subject, however, to the provision that where aged, convalescent, and chronically ill
29 residents of the county are in need of such facilities and services and are sufficiently
30 impecunious as to be unable to pay the full cost of such care, then the charges to such
31 residents shall be in direct proportion to their ability to pay for the services;

32 (5) To apply all moneys, assets, property or other things of value it may
33 receive to the general purposes of the board;

34 (6) To adopt, subject to the terms of this section, such rules and
35 regulations of any facilities or services that it establishes as may be necessary for
36 their proper operation;

37 (7) To cooperate with and assist, insofar as practicable, any agency of the
38 State of Maryland, the United States of America, any subdivision of either, or any
39 private agency or person in furtherance of any of the purposes of this section;

1 (8) To hire a director of any facility or service that it establishes and to
2 provide for such additional employees, their qualifications and wages as are
3 necessary to properly operate such facilities;

4 (9) To require that all facilities and services that it establishes maintain
5 such standards that they may qualify for licenses as hospitals under Title 19, Subtitle
6 3, Part III of the Health - General Article; and

7 (10) To integrate its facilities with, accept funds from, and cooperate with
8 the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene in any facet or facets of its operations
9 insofar as deemed advisable by this board.

10 (e) The board shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman for any
11 period it may designate. It shall hold such meetings as may be necessary for the
12 proper conduct of its business, not, however, less frequently than once per month. It
13 shall adopt, subject to the terms of this section, such rules as are necessary for the
14 internal regulation of the board.

15 (f) The activities of the board shall be supported insofar as possible by citizen
16 support, voluntary contributions, fees and charges, payments from the State and
17 federal government. The county commissioners or county council are authorized to
18 make annual appropriations in support of the operations of the citizens nursing home
19 board of the county for the objective of maintaining an adequate level of medical and
20 nursing care for the aged, convalescent, and chronically ill citizens of the county. In
21 further support of the objectives of this section the county commissioners or county
22 council may make appropriations for land acquisition and capital improvements or
23 borrow funds for these purposes and issue individual notes, bonds or other evidences
24 of indebtedness.

25 (g) The board shall annually report their activities to the county
26 commissioners or county council during the preceding year, together with
27 recommendations or requests they deem appropriate to achieve the objectives and
28 purposes of this section.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2000.