

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 993 (Delegate Costa, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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**Nursing Homes - Quality of Care - Assisted Living Services**

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This bill requires the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes to develop recommendations to continue improvements in assisted living facility care, including issues related to: (1) administration of medication; (2) qualifications of staff; (3) number of staff; and (4) Alzheimer's treatment and care. The bill renames the oversight committee to the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs and adds two members, a representative of the Mid-Atlantic Life Span Association, and a representative who owns an assisted living facility to the committee.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The additional duties of the oversight committee could be handled with the existing resources of the entities represented on the committee. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes was created in 2000. The committee monitors and evaluates implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities, created

pursuant to Chapters 382 and 383 of 1999, as well as the progress in improving nursing home care quality statewide.

**Background:** The Task Force on Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities is staffed by the Department of Aging, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Legislative Services. The task force studied various issues relating to quality of care initiatives in nursing homes and issued its report to the General Assembly in December 1999. One of the recommendations, enacted as Chapter 216 of 2000, was to continue the task force as an oversight committee to monitor the progress of the implementation of the task force's recommendations to improve the quality of care in nursing homes. The committee will terminate on December 31, 2005.

There are approximately 245 nursing homes and 1,000 assisted living facilities in Maryland.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** An identical bill, HB 656, was introduced in the 2002 session. It was reported unfavorably by the Environmental Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Office of Health Care Quality), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 2003  
lc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 2003

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