

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 893

(Delegate Hammen, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - Quality of Care Oversight

This bill requires the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes, in addition to its quality of care oversight functions for nursing homes, to investigate quality of care in assisted living facilities. The bill changes the name of the committee to the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities and adds seven members. As part of its oversight duties, the committee must take into consideration standards for the identification of the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease as well as standards for the identification of conditions appropriate for hospice services. The committee must study the provision and quality of mental and behavioral health care services to meet the needs of nursing home and assisted living residents. The bill requires the Department of Human Resources to assist with staffing the committee. Further, the bill reduces reporting requirements for the Office of Health Care Quality from two annual reports to one. It also repeals the committee's December 31, 2005 termination date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The continuation of the oversight committee and studying quality of care in assisted living facilities could be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the agencies that staff the commission. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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. The committee is staffed by the Department of Aging, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Department of Legislative Services. It is scheduled to terminate December 31, 2005.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 993 of 2003, passed the House but was not reported by the Senate Finance Committee.

Cross File: SB 701 (Senator Teitelbaum, *et al.*) – Finance.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2005
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