

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 795
Finance

(Senator Eckardt)

**Oversight Committee on Quality Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living
Facilities – Membership and Cochairs**

This bill alters the membership of the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities by adding a representative of Leading Age Maryland. The bill repeals the requirement that the Secretary of Aging (or the Secretary's designee) serve as chair; instead, the oversight committee must elect two co-chairs from among specified members of the oversight committee by October 31 each year. At least 80% of the oversight committee positions must be filled before a co-chair may be elected. The term of a co-chair is one year, and a co-chair may not serve more than two terms. The bill also specifies that the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) all must provide staff support for the oversight committee, rather than MDOA with assistance from MDH, DHS, and DLS.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, the oversight committee evaluates progress in improving the quality of nursing home and assisted living facility care in the State.

Chapter 473 of 2018 altered the membership of the oversight committee by, among other things, (1) adding as members the director of the Office of Health Care Quality, the Secretary of Disabilities, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and a representative of the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services; (2) establishing that one representative of a local long-term care ombudsman entity be selected by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman; and (3) specifying that the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman appoint specified consumer members. The Act also expanded the issues the oversight committee may consider in its evaluation of the progress in improving nursing home care quality and assisted living facility quality statewide and authorized the oversight committee to (1) review legislation and proposed regulations that may affect nursing home and assisted living facility care and (2) make recommendations about legislation to the General Assembly and about regulations to specified departments and to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Aging; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

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rh/jc

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