

# HOUSE BILL 931

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By: **Delegates Hill, Alston, McComas, Taveras, Taylor, White Holland, and Woods**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026  
Assigned to: Health

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Facilities – Nursing Homes – Medical Director Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a physician, in order to be designated as a medical director  
4 of a nursing home, to hold a certain medical director certification or be making active  
5 progress toward obtaining the certification; requiring the Maryland Department of  
6 Health to establish and maintain an online directory of nursing home medical  
7 directors; and generally relating to nursing home medical directors.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Health – General  
10 Section 19–1401(a) and (e)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Health – General  
15 Section 19–1411  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 19–1401.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (e) (1) “Nursing home” means a facility that offers nonacute inpatient care to  
24 patients suffering from a disease, chronic illness, condition, disability of advanced age, or

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



terminal disease requiring maximal nursing care without continuous hospital services and who require medical services and nursing services rendered by or under the supervision of a licensed nurse together with convalescent, restorative, or rehabilitative services.

(2) "Nursing home" does not mean a facility offering domiciliary care or personal care as those terms are defined in § 19-301 of this title.

19-1411.

(a) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "MEDICAL DIRECTOR" MEANS THE PHYSICIAN DESIGNATED BY A NURSING HOME TO OVERSEE MEDICAL CARE AND CLINICAL POLICIES AT THE NURSING HOME IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

(3) "MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION" MEANS:

(I) A CERTIFIED MEDICAL DIRECTOR (CMD) CERTIFICATION ISSUED BY THE POST-ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (PALTMed); OR

(II) A CREDENTIAL EQUIVALENT TO A CMD CERTIFICATION APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) (1) (I) Each nursing home shall designate a physician WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION to serve as medical director.

(II) A PHYSICIAN MAY NOT BE A DESIGNATED MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT MORE THAN TWO LICENSED NURSING HOMES.

(2) The medical director is responsible for monitoring physician services at the nursing home.

(3) The medical director shall report monthly to the quality assurance committee on the quality of medical care at the nursing home.

(C) (1) TO QUALIFY TO BE DESIGNATED AS A MEDICAL DIRECTOR UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PHYSICIAN MUST:

(I) HOLD A VALID MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION; OR

1                   **(II) BE MAKING ACTIVE PROGRESS TOWARD OBTAINING A**  
2 **MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION.**

3                   **(2) A PHYSICIAN DESIGNATED AS A MEDICAL DIRECTOR UNDER**  
4 **SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT:**

5                   **(I) A COPY OF THE PHYSICIAN'S MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
6 **CERTIFICATION; OR**

7                   **(II) EVIDENCE SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACTIVE**  
8 **PROGRESS TOWARD OBTAINING A MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION.**

9                   **(3) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A**  
10 **PHYSICIAN WHO WAS DESIGNATED AS A MEDICAL DIRECTOR ON OR BEFORE**  
11 **SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, SHALL OBTAIN A MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION ON OR**  
12 **BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2028.**

13                   **(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY GRANT A PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED**  
14 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH A TIME-LIMITED EXTENSION FOR**  
15 **OBTAINING A MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION ON A SHOWING OF GOOD CAUSE,**  
16 **AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN REGULATION.**

17                   **[(b)] (D)** The Secretary, in consultation with the Medical and Chirurgical  
18 Faculty of Maryland, and representatives of the nursing home industry, shall:

19                   (1) [Establish qualifications for the medical director of a nursing home or  
20 anyone acting for the medical director in his or her absence;

21                   (2)] Define the duties of the medical director; and

22                   **[(3)] (2)** Adopt regulations for the attending physicians who treat  
23 residents of nursing homes that will provide for physician accountability.

24                   **(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PUBLICLY**  
25 **ACCESSIBLE ONLINE DIRECTORY OF NURSING HOME MEDICAL DIRECTORS IN THE**  
26 **STATE THAT INCLUDES EACH MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S:**

27                   **(I) NAME;**

28                   **(II) PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS; AND**

29                   **(III) CERTIFICATION STATUS.**

1           **(2) EACH NURSING HOME LICENSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL**  
2 **SUBMIT THE NAME OF THE DESIGNATED MEDICAL DIRECTOR TO THE DEPARTMENT**  
3 **FOR INCLUSION IN THE DIRECTORY IN A MANNER AND ON THE SCHEDULE**  
4 **DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

5           **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**  
6 **SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:**

7           **(1) THE EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A**  
8 **MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO A CMD**  
9 **CERTIFICATION; AND**

10           **(2) THE PROCESS FOR APPROVING A MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
11 **CERTIFICATION.**

12           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2026.