

HOUSE BILL 945

J3, 02

6lr3158

By: **Delegate Sample–Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Nursing Homes – Complaints – Notification and Consultation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to notify and consult
4 with the local health department for the county in which a nursing home is located
5 if the Department initiates an investigation of a nursing home complaint alleging
6 actual harm; and generally relating to nursing home complaints.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health – General
9 Section 19–1408
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 19–1408.

16 (a) (1) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Department shall make a
17 site visit and conduct a full survey of each licensed nursing home at least once per calendar
18 year.

19 (2) Unless otherwise required by federal law, all surveys shall be
20 unannounced.

21 (b) (1) Subject to [paragraph] **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this subsection,
22 the Department shall initiate an investigation of a nursing home complaint alleging actual
23 harm within 10 business days after receiving the complaint.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) If the Department receives a complaint against a nursing home alleging immediate jeopardy to a resident, the Department:

(i) Shall make every effort to investigate the complaint within 24 hours after receiving the complaint; and

(ii) Shall investigate the complaint not later than 48 hours after receiving the complaint.

(3) IF THE DEPARTMENT INITIATES AN INVESTIGATION OF A NURSING HOME COMPLAINT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) NOTIFY IMMEDIATELY THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE NURSING HOME IS LOCATED; AND

(II) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE WITHIN THE TIME REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, CONSULT AND COORDINATE WITH THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ON THE COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND RESPONSE.

(c) If ownership of a licensed nursing home is transferred to a person that does not own or operate another nursing home in the State at the time of the transfer, the Department shall conduct:

(1) The first full survey of the licensed nursing home as required under subsection (a) of this section within 3 months after the date of transfer; and

(2) An unannounced, on-site follow-up survey of the licensed nursing home that covers any deficiencies noted in the full survey within 120 days after the full survey was completed.

(d) (1) Beginning July 1, 2025, and every 3 months thereafter, the Department shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health [and Government Operations] Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the number of surveys conducted in each county, disaggregated by the following types of surveys:

(i) Standard survey;

(ii) Complain survey;

(iii) Follow-up survey;

(iv) Revisit survey;

(v) Special focus facility survey;

(vi) Abbreviated survey; and

(vii) Life safety code survey.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2025, and every 6 months thereafter, the Office of Health Care Quality shall report to the local area agency on aging for each county the name of each nursing home in the county that was surveyed in the immediately preceding 6 months and the date each survey was conducted.

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