

HOUSE BILL 945

J3, O2

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:

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

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

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

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

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

28 (i) Standard survey;

29 (ii) Complain survey;

30 (iii) Follow-up survey;

31 (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 Quality shall report to the local area agency on aging for each county the name of a nursing home in the county that was surveyed in the immediately preceding 6 months as of the date each survey was conducted.

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