

HOUSE BILL 965

J3

6lr0824
CF SB 240

By: **Delegates Woorman, Alston, Boyce, Guzzone, Kaufman, Tomlinson, Wolek, and Wu**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory
4 Council to provide feedback to the Office of Health Care Quality regarding
5 maintaining oversight of health care facilities and to notify the Secretary of Health
6 if the Office is negligent in providing oversight; and generally relating to the Office
7 of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Health – General

10 Section 19–2701 and 19–2702 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 27. Office of
11 Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 **SUBTITLE 27. OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY**
18 **COUNCIL.**

19 **19–2701.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
21 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (III) TWO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS OR INDIVIDUALS WITH A
2 FAMILY MEMBER RESIDING IN A NURSING HOME;

3 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LONG-TERM CARE
4 INDUSTRY;

5 (V) ONE MEMBER OF AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR THE
6 INTELLECTUALLY AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED; AND

7 (VI) ONE MEMBER OF AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR BEHAVIORAL
8 HEALTH;

9 (7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL
10 ASSOCIATION, DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION; AND

11 (8) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS DESIGNATED BY THE ORGANIZATION
12 THE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTS:

13 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND
14 STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY;

15 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF 1199 SEIU UNITED
16 HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST;

17 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF
18 AARP;

19 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND STATE
20 CONFERENCE NAACP;

21 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND CASA;

22 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF DISABILITY RIGHTS MARYLAND;
23 AND

24 (VII) ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND CONTINUING CARE
25 RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

26 (D) (1) (I) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL IS 2
27 YEARS.

28 (II) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER SHALL CONTINUE TO
29 SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

1 **(2) (I) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE SHALL SELECT THE CHAIR**
2 **OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

3 **(II) THE TERM OF THE CHAIR IS 2 YEARS.**

4 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE ADVISORY**
5 **COUNCIL.**

6 **(F) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY NOT RECEIVE**
7 **COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

8 **(G) (1) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL**
9 **HOLD A VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING ONCE EVERY 6 MONTHS.**

10 **(2) (I) EACH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL:**

11 1. **BE STREAMED LIVE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S**
12 **WEBSITE; AND**

13 2. **INCLUDE A DESIGNATED OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC**
14 **COMMENT.**

15 **(II) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE**
16 **ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE SUMMARY COMPILED UNDER SUBSECTION (H)(2) OF THIS**
17 **SECTION AND MEETING MINUTES SHALL BE POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S**
18 **WEBSITE.**

19 **(H) (1) AT EACH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE**
20 **OFFICE SHALL REPORT DATA FROM THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 6-MONTH**
21 **PERIOD REGARDING:**

22 **(I) THE NUMBER OF:**

23 1. **HOSPITALS ACTIVELY MONITORED;**

24 2. **NURSING HOMES INSPECTED;**

25 3. **COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM HOSPITAL PATIENTS**
26 **AND LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS; AND**

27 4. **CODE VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED IN EACH FACILITY;**

1 **(II) THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME FOR THE OFFICE TO**
2 **RESPOND TO EACH COMPLAINT; AND**

3 **(III) THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RESOLVED BY THE OFFICE.**

4 **(2) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL:**

5 **(I) 1. REVIEW THE DATA REPORTS PROVIDED BY THE**
6 **OFFICE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

7 **2. COMPILE FEEDBACK FROM EACH MEMBER OF THE**
8 **ADVISORY COUNCIL INTO A SUMMARY REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE REPORT**
9 **FROM THE OFFICE; AND**

10 **(II) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONTINUE**
11 **IMPROVEMENT IN NURSING HOME AND HOSPITAL CARE QUALITY.**

12 **(I) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE**
13 **ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE**
14 **GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**
15 **ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial
17 non-ex officio members of the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council
18 shall expire as follows:

19 (1) ten members in 2027; and

20 (2) ten members in 2028.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2026.