

STATE OF MARYLAND



Andrew N. Pollak
CHAIR

Ben Steffen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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March 17, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 690 –Public Health – Long-Term Care Planning - INFORMATION

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Maryland Health Care Commission (the “Commission”) would like to provide the Health and Government Operations Committee with information related to Senate Bill 690 (SB 690).

SB 690 requires that the Maryland Department of Health “develop and publish materials to assist Maryland residents with long-term care family planning” that match the requirements for the “PLAN NOW Starter Kit” that was recommended in the Report of the Maryland Governor’s Task Force on Long-Term Care Planning published in 2018. The Maryland Health Care Commission (the “Commission”) is willing to include these or similar materials in the web-based Consumer Guide to Long-Term Care.¹

The Commission is dedicated to educating and informing consumers about health care cost and quality. One of the Commission’s on-going projects is publishing the Consumer Guide to Long Term Care. This Consumer Guide is a robust website that provides information on planning for long-term care, paying for long term care, advanced directives, and other information related to resources for aging adults in Maryland. The Consumer Guide provides in-depth information on the long term care options in Maryland, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and continuing care retirement communities. The Consumer Guide also has extensive information on resources to support older adults living at home. This website has approximately 1,600 new users a month, providing valuable resources to large numbers of individuals over the course of the year.

The Commission is willing to add materials like the “Plan Now Starter Kit” to the Consumer Guide for Long Term Care to compliment the information already included on the website.

¹ The Consumer Guide to Long Term Care is assessable at the following web address:

<https://mhcc.maryland.gov/consumerinfo/longtermcare/Default.aspx>

Note: The Maryland Health Care Commission is an independent State agency. The position of the Commission may differ from the Maryland Department of Health

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass

March 17, 2020

Page 2

I hope you find this information useful. Please feel free to contact me at (410) 764-3566 or Ben.Steffen@maryland.gov, or Megan Renfrew, Government Affairs and Special Projects, at (410) 764-3483 or Megan.Renfrew@maryland.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Steffen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ben Steffen

Executive Director

Maryland Health Care Commission

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