



**2021 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL: SB 47 – Health Facilities -Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs – Essential Caregivers**

**COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee**

**POSITION: Letter of Information with Amendment**

**BILL ANALYSIS: SB 47 would require Maryland nursing homes and assisted living programs to establish policies and procedures related to essential caregivers, require that these facilities consult with the local Health Officer of their jurisdiction when setting the required policies, and other related actions.**

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) agrees with the intent of SB 47 to establish procedures for essential caregivers which are suitable to the facility, the residents of those facilities, any regulatory or oversight body, the current health status of these communities and actions necessary in emergency conditions.

As written, SB47 states that nursing homes or assisted living facilities may consult with the Health Officer for where the facility is located in relation to the essential caregiver policies and procedures. Health Officers and local health departments do not have jurisdiction over these facilities and do not currently perform this function and would not be able to do so as described in the bill as currently introduced. MACHO asks that SB 47 be amended in this manner:

~~2) A NURSING HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM MAY CONSULT 28 WITH THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE FACILITY 29 IS LOCATED WHEN ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UNDER PARAGRAPH 30 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of information with amendment. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*