

ARIANA KELLY
Legislative District 16
Montgomery County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health Occupations
and Long Term Care

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

House Chair, Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 425
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3642 · 301-858-3642
800-492-7122 Ext. 3642
Fax 410-841-3026 · 301-858-3026
Ariana.Kelly@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 599 - Public Health- Long-Term Care Family Planning
February 3, 2021

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Committee Members,

HB 599 will require the Maryland Department of Health to develop and publish materials to assist Maryland residents with long-term care family planning, and for state agencies to update their websites to include information on this topic by a April 1, 2022 compliance date.

This bill was introduced in the 2020 session by Senator Katherine Klausmeier and passed both the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate floor unanimously. It did not have a House sponsor and due to the early session adjournment in response to the pandemic, this bill did not progress through HGO. There was no opposition to the bill.

HB 599 coincides with two recommendations from the 2018 final report produced by Governor Hogan's Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning formed in 2017. Recommendation four calls for the development of a "PLAN NOW Starter Kit" which is an educational consumer guide designed to improve access to information and resources on long-term care family planning for Marylanders. Recommendation five calls for a revamping and streamlining of the long-term care information available from the state at present. This will apply to the Maryland Department of Health, Department of Aging, Department of Disabilities, and the Maryland Health Care Commission as these four agencies were noted as the most contacted for assistance with long-term care needs. Implementing these recommendations will effectively clear up any misconceptions about long-term care as well as provide greater education to families on the costs and the importance of planning.

Long-term care costs have risen considerably over the past few years. Annual median costs of services in Maryland range between \$54,912 and \$122,275 depending on the service needed. Between 2015 and 2030, Maryland's 60+ age population is expected to increase by 40%, from 1.2 million to 1.7 million older adults. As the amount of older residents rises, so will the need for

long-term care. Many families currently have little or no information about planning for long-term care, often leading to critical healthcare decisions being made at a time of crisis. Without proper, advanced planning, seeking care can place a serious financial burden on many Marylanders. To improve the quality of life for our older residents, we must implement these recommendations.

I urge a favorable report on HB 599. Thank you.