



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 3, 2021

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

RE: House Bill 207 - Nursing Homes – Resident Change in Condition – Notification - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill 207 - Nursing Homes – Resident Change in Condition – Notification.

HB 207 would require each nursing home to provide notification of a change in condition of a resident to either the resident or identified individuals on behalf of the resident within 24 hours, rather than in a timely manner.

MDH has enacted various similar requirements of skilled nursing facilities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic via Secretary's Orders. The latest version of the Secretary's Order Related to Nursing Homes is attached for reference. All aspects of the order, especially those related to visitation are aligned with CMS guidance. If a facility is directed to take an action that is out of compliance with CMS guidance, MDH provides oversight through the Office of Health Care Quality and would be required by CMS to survey and issue citations. It is important that any state requirements align with CMS guidance which can change frequently and has changed throughout the pandemic as the impact on long term care facilities evolved.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov or Emily Berg, Assistant Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at (443) 202- 4977 or emily.berg@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy