



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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SB 507

February 18, 2021

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 507 – Division of Consumer Protection - Assisted Living Programs

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 507.

This bill requires an assisted living program appointed as a representative payee for residents to report specified information to the Consumer Protection Division (CPD) of the Office of Attorney General (OAG) by June 1st each year. The report covers the use of residents' (1) Social Security benefits; and (2) other federal, State, or local government funds. When referring to an allegation of an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice by an assisted living program to the Office of Inspector General within the Maryland Department of Health, the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) must concurrently refer the allegation to CPD.

Senate Bill 507 provides protection for residents of assisted living facilities for whom the facility is the representative payee. Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults is increasing, including those who live in institutional settings such as assisted living. The report required by Senate Bill 507 may reduce or prevent victimization of assisted living residents.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 507.