



576 Johnsville Road  
Sykesville, MD 21784

**TO:** Senate Education, Health and Environment  
**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 82, Certified Nursing Assistants - Licensing Requirements  
**DATE:** February 1, 2022  
**POSITION:** **Unfavorable**

LeadingAge Maryland opposes Senate Bill 82, Certified Nursing Assistants - Licensing Requirements.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 135 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, public agencies, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

Senate Bill 82 requires all certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to meet the requirements of a geriatric nurse assistant (GNA). LeadingAge Maryland is concerned that this bill increases requirements for current nursing assistants which could potentially exacerbate the workforce shortages by not permitting those currently licensed as CNAs to work in care facilities without a GNA certification.

We appreciate the sponsors intent and would potentially support this change in future years. Having one standard for nursing assistants across the state could, in the future, help to bolster the workforce that is available to work in skilled nursing and rehab centers. However, CNAs are currently employed in a variety of care settings and given the current workforce shortages, requiring these individuals to attain a higher level of training and pass an examination during COVID-19 would further burden an already burdened workforce.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 82.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, 410.446.1992