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**SB 720 State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators - Renaming and
Licensure of Assisted Living Managers
Senate Finance Committee
FAVORABLE
March 10, 2022**

Good afternoon Chair Kelley and members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the country. AARP Maryland and its more than 850,000 members support SB 720. We thank Senator Kelley for sponsoring this bill. We also thank her for being a champion for the quality of care in long-term care settings.

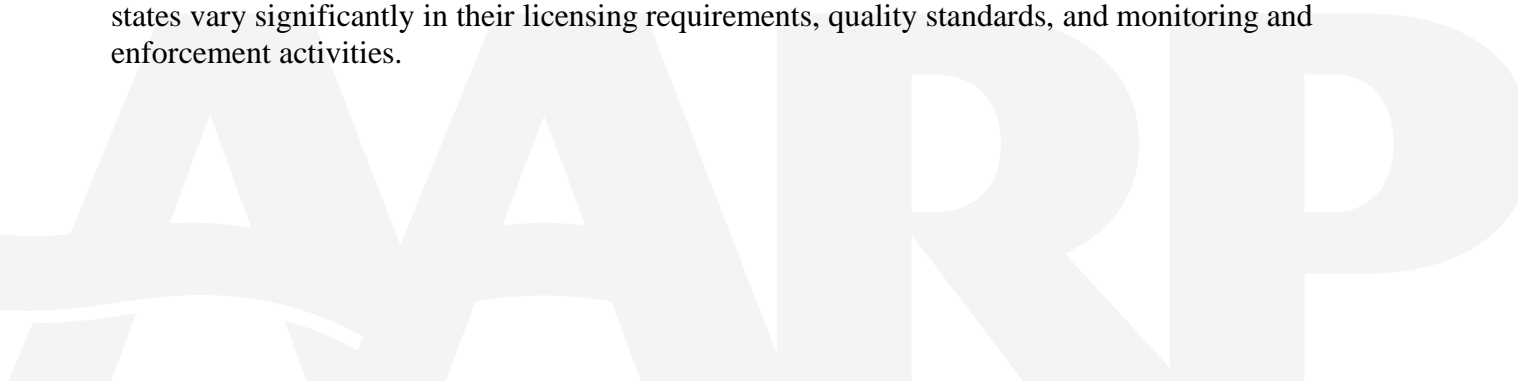
AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps strengthen communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

Senate Bill 720 renames the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators to be the State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators and requires that an individual must be licensed by the board to practice as an assisted living manager in the State beginning October 1, 2022. The bill alters board structure and membership requirements, specifies that the board is a medical review committee, and makes conforming changes

Assisted living facilities are designed for older people who are no longer able to manage living independently and need help with daily activities such as bathing or dressing, but don't require the round-the-clock health care that a nursing home would provide. Assisted living is there to offer that assistance, while maximizing their independence.

What we are all familiar with is that assisted living facilities usually provide residents with their own apartments or rooms, as well as some common areas. They may offer around-the-clock supervision and a range of services, including meals, housekeeping and laundry, as well as assistance with personal care and help with medications. What we have in Maryland is a rather large percentage of smaller assisted living facilities that provide level three care like what is provided in a nursing home.

In contrast to nursing homes, no federal quality standards exist for assisted living. Additionally, states vary significantly in their licensing requirements, quality standards, and monitoring and enforcement activities.



In October 2000, the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted-Living Facilities originated when the General Assembly established the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes. The Committee adopted its present name on October 1, 2005 adding in Assisted Living. As a group who is represented on the Committee, it has been brought to the attention of the committee, problems in the smaller assisted living facilities, such as inadequately trained staff, too few staff, medication errors, and the admission and retention of individuals who need more care.

This proposed legislation will strengthen State oversight of Maryland Assisted Living Programs. Currently, there is limited oversight of the ALF manager. Having more accountability and an actual license subject to sanctioning will increase the awareness of the managers who oversee Assisted Living Facilities.

AARP Maryland believes that state governments should conduct regular, thorough, and consistent oversight of long-term care including assisted living. Oversight should include evaluation of consumer outcomes and the quality of care.

AARP Maryland also believes that States should also ensure quality of care and quality of life for all consumers. The rights of the consumer should be protected in all long-term care settings including assisted living.

For these reasons, AARP Maryland respectfully requests the Health and Government Operations Committee issue a favorable report for SB 720. For questions or further follow up, please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@arp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.