

SB909 Health Occupations – Nursing Home Administrator – Qualifications

Position – Unfavorable from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

March 16, 2022

As the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I advocate for the rights, quality of care and quality of life of long-term care residents. The nursing home administrator license requirements provide protections for the residents in Maryland. If this bill is passed, those standards would be weakened, sacrificing the oversight provided by well-qualified, trained administrators and the quality of care of residents in nursing homes. As a member of the State Board of Nursing Home Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, I recommend that the Committee seek additional information from the Board.

Please note the following concerns:

- It would allow an assistant administrator from another state to become an administrator in Maryland. The qualifications for assistant administrators vary from state to state.
- The one-year requirement of full-time nursing home administration is decreased to nine months
- It allows nursing experience to replace the experience of nursing home administrator experience. Nursing experience is not the same as nursing home administrator experience. Nurses aide experience is not the same as the administrator.
- The internship option is not defined and an assisted living facility in one state is not the same as in others. Consequently, it would be difficult to know if training in an assisted living in Maine would prepare someone to work in Maryland.
- It requires the Board to waive an education requirement rather than give the Board the discretion to determine this on a case-by-case basis.
- Finally, the bill as written, is confusing and contradictory – it makes it difficult to become an administrator on one hand and reduces the standards on the other hand.

The most vulnerable residents in this state need and deserve the most qualified, well-trained administrators. This bill could result in putting residents at risk.

I do not support this bill as written, and I am recommending that the Committee consider doing the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Stevanne Ellis

Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman

