

SB 531/HB 0636 Maryland Health Care Commission– Assisted Living Study
Position – Support from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
February 15, 2022

There has been little focus, data, and public information about assisted living residents and assisted living facilities in Maryland. This bill would require a study, and the data will be used to help identify trends in assisted living facilities across the state. The following should be noted:

- The systematic analysis of survey data will help identify issues related to quality of care and quality of life. This would lead to discussion and planning to improve any problem areas.
- Patterns for facilities opening and closing would be identified that will help to identify trends related to regulatory issues and other concerns that lead to business success or failure including affordability and funding sources.
- Currently, there is not any public data available about small assisted living facilities (ALF). If it is feasible to develop a reporting system, this would allow for further analysis of ALF issues and provide information for the public to learn more about these types of facilities in the state and to better ensure informed decisions about choosing a facility for themselves or a loved one.
- The study would lead to greater transparency of complaint information and information available to the public. Survey data for small assisted living facilities is not currently posted publicly.

As the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I support this bill that could potentially lead to greater protections and more informed decision making for residents and their families.

Sincerely,

Stevanne Ellis, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

