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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 531 / HB 636
Maryland Health Care Commission – Assisted Living Programs – Study

Good Afternoon Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee;

SB 531, Maryland Health Care Commission – Assisted Living Programs - Study is a cross file of Delegate Belcastro's HB 636. The bills are identical and passed their chambers unanimously.

The Oversight Committee for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living, on which we both serve, frequently discusses the many differences between smaller assisted livings and the much larger facilities. We discovered that many states have different regulations and oversight for smaller facilities, defined as 9 or fewer beds.

This bill simply requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of Health Care Quality, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Medicaid Administration, the Governors Workforce Development Board and interested stakeholders to conduct a study group regarding the assisted living programs of nine or fewer beds.

Specifically they must review:

- Do they receive sufficient reimbursement to cover cost of care.
- Can waivers programs be revised to improve quality of care and increase provider participation.
- Review staffing resources, measures to encourage recruitment and retention.

Their findings and recommendations, including draft legislation to the Governor, the Department of Health, Senate Finance and the House Health and Government Operations Committee must be reported by October 1, 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 531 and I respectfully request a favorable report.