



576 Johnsville Road
Sykesville, MD 21784

TO: Health and Government Operations
FROM: LeadingAge Maryland
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 531, Maryland Health Care Commission - Assisted Living Programs - Study
DATE: March 24, 2022
POSITION: **Favorable**

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate bill 531, Maryland Health Care Commission - Assisted Living Programs - Study.

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.

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

Small-scale assisted living facilities are an alternative to traditional, large institutional nursing homes. They aim to create a homelike environment and have no more than a dozen residents. LeadingAge Maryland recognizes that there is an increasingly wide and diverse array of assisted living facilities. Uniform statutes and regulations applicable to the entire industry often fails to address the specific issues that could arise in a smaller assisted living facility. LeadingAge Maryland supports reviewing quality of care in assisted living facilities with nine beds or less with the recognition that the study may suggest a need for specific regulations to address this facility size.

LeadingAge Maryland is concerned about numerous assisted living bills before the 2022 Maryland General Assembly session that could further impact these smaller assisted living facilities. While the Committee evaluates assisted living legislation, we respectfully request that it does so with a lens towards the smaller assisted living facilities.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 531.

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