

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 712 – State-Owned Nursing Homes - Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines - Reporting Requirements

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 712. This bill would revise provisions of law enacted during the 2023 Legislative Session regarding the reporting of enforcement actions at State-owned nursing homes.

Last year, we took action in Senate Bill 974 in response of reports of mistreatment of residents at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) in St. Mary's County. Due to the timing of these reports becoming public, we needed to pass this bill in the final days of the legislative session. During the interim, I have been working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the reporting mechanisms created by that bill align with the Department's procedures in responding to reports of residents' mistreatment. Senate Bill 712 has been drafted based on the recommendations of the Department on how to improve this reporting requirement.

The bill adds inspections by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Department of Labor, and the county health department to the notice clause, and specifies that notice shall be provided within 15 days of the final survey findings. It also requires the contractor to submit the notice of any deficiency to the State agency overseeing the nursing home for distribution to the Governor and the General Assembly. Finally, the bill alters the follow-up reporting provisions to better align them to the response times required by the Office of Health Care Quality and the VA.

I believe that these are technical changes and are consistent with the intent of last year's bill. Senate Bill 712 passed the Senate 46-0 and is identical to House Bill 938 as it passed this Committee and the House of Delegates. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 712. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey