



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 825

Health Facilities – Delegation of Inspection Authority – Related Institutions and Nursing Homes

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 1, 2024

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 825. This bill extends authority to local governments requesting to oversee and maintain standards for nursing homes, hospitals, and residential inpatient and outpatient treatment centers.

Community members can access health care services through a range of providers across Maryland. It is important that required standards and procedures are adhered to with extreme vigilance in these facilities. Some jurisdictions have a considerable number of providers, and some have just a handful. Regardless, they all require accountability – but those safeguards are only effective when they are properly enforced.

The provisions of this bill are in the spirit of state and local partnership. With staffing shortages and tenuous vacancy rates, the state agencies are not always able to keep up with the volume of entities that need to be evaluated. The ability for local agencies to be granted the authority to step in and support those enforcement efforts will guarantee that the services residents are receiving in any jurisdiction are safe.

Counties believe, with the current workforce challenges, that allowing local agencies to help out when they feel they are capable, is a wise strategy for making sure all Marylanders are protected in these circumstances. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 825 a **FAVORABLE** report.