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SB 952 Assisted Living Programs – Assisted Living Referrers and Prohibitions
FAVORABLE
Senate Finance Committee
March 7th, 2024

Good Afternoon Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan, Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. AARP Maryland advocates on behalf of more than two million Marylanders 50 and over. AARP MD supports SB 952. We thank Senator Hettleman for bringing this important legislation forward.

SB 952 established requirements for assisted living referrers, including requirements related to the maintenance of general liability insurance, a criminal history records checks, the maintenance and provision of agreements and documents, and assisted living program tours; prohibiting an assisted living referrer from requesting payment for a referral more than one year after the referral is made.

Older Marylanders and vulnerable individuals and their families make critical long-term care decisions to ensure that adequate and appropriate care is provided, especially when long-term services and supports are needed. Marylanders need remedies to protect them from unscrupulous players in the assisted living field like those who would open a facility without proper licensure. Marylanders need to know that the facilities to which their loved ones are referred are licensed and will protect the safety of those individuals once admitted. Finally, Maryland needs to enact sanctions and laws to hold accountable those who would evade these required practices or break the letter of this law.

AARP believes that States should rigorously enforce mandatory minimum standards and make other efforts to promote excellence and ensure quality of life outcomes for individuals in a residential care setting. AARP also believes that States should have a full range of sanctions available for those who would break this law. These sanctions should include (but not be limited to) civil penalties, a ban on all new admissions, monitoring of directed plans of correction, denial of Medicaid payment for new admissions, and appointment of temporary managers and receivers.

Remedies should be swiftly imposed, with harsher sanctions for recurring, serious, or widespread deficiencies.

For these reasons AARP Maryland respectfully request a favorable report on SB 952. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

