



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 21, 2024

Senate Bill 694: Maryland Department of Health - Health Commissions and
Maryland Insurance Administration - Study
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support with amendment for Senate Bill 694.

HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state. HFAM is affiliated with the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), which is the largest association in the United States representing long-term and post-acute care providers.

Senate Bill 694 requires the Maryland Department of Health to contract with an independent consultant to conduct a certain study of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Maryland Health Care Commission, the Maryland Insurance Administration, and the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission; and requires the Department to submit a report on the results of the study to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before January 1, 2026.

We appreciate the intent of this legislation and agree that it is important to look at overlap of organizations to appropriately streamline duties for improved effectiveness and efficiency. **We respectfully request that the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) be added to the list of organizations studied in Senate Bill 694.**

As you know, OHCQ is the agency within the Maryland Department of Health charged with monitoring the quality of care in Maryland's health care facilities and community-based programs. In our experience, there is often overlap statutory and regulatory duties performed by between OHCQ and the other organizations outlined in this legislation. We believe including OHCQ in the study proposed by this legislation will be beneficial to healthcare providers, consumers, and to meeting the goals of the Total Cost of Care Contract. We and our members are supportive of appropriately streamlining duties to improve effectiveness and efficiency in organizations that oversee healthcare providers.

For these reasons, and with the proposed amendment, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 694.

Submitted by:
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