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Legislative District 12A

Howard County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and  
Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority  
Health Disparities



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF  
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**SUPPORT**

**HB1177 - Continuing Care Retirement Communities - Subscriber Rights and Provider Duties**

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Continuing care retirement communities, also known as "life plan communities," can offer independent living, assisted living and nursing care facilities. Residents can enter these facilities if needing assistance at any stage of adult daily life, or as an aging senior. Under both circumstances, they will transition to the next stages as their age and care needs progress. According to the MD Department of Aging, "As of January 1, 2023, there are 38 operating or approved [CCRCs] in Maryland. The CCRCs, both operating and under construction, contain over 16,000 continuing care units, of which over 12,000 are independent living, over 2,000 are assisted living, and over 2,000 are nursing care."<sup>1</sup>

This chain of care sets CCRCs apart from other types of senior living arrangements. These facilities allow seniors the opportunity to create lasting friendships or associations and/or belonging to groups and communities that remain intact for their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

However, currently residents of CCRC communities have limited input into decisions that may significantly impact their lives and community. Addressing this concern is crucial to enhancing resident rights and fostering a more inclusive decision-making process.

**HB1177 would:**

- Amend the membership structure of governing bodies in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) to include at least 3 of the provider's subscribers as members.
- Prohibit CCRC providers from infringing on the civil rights of subscribers, ensure that subscribers are provided with necessary information about the facilities and services provided, and afford potential subscribers a visit before signing continuing care agreements.
- Empower subscribers in CCRCs the right to take actions like refusing treatments, participating fully in discussions regarding the need to change one's level of care, freely discussing issues with other residents, and participate in other designated activities, including establishing a resident association.
- Mandate certain actions by CCRC providers and the provision of specified information, while also urging the Secretary of Aging to establish a Continuing Care in a Retirement Community Ombudsman in each county to increase oversight and accountability of CCRCs.

I urge a favorable report on HB1177.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".

<sup>1</sup> [Continuing Care Retirement Communities \(maryland.gov\)](https://www.maryland.gov/continuing-care-retirement-communities)

<sup>2</sup> [Differences in Elder Care Options](#)