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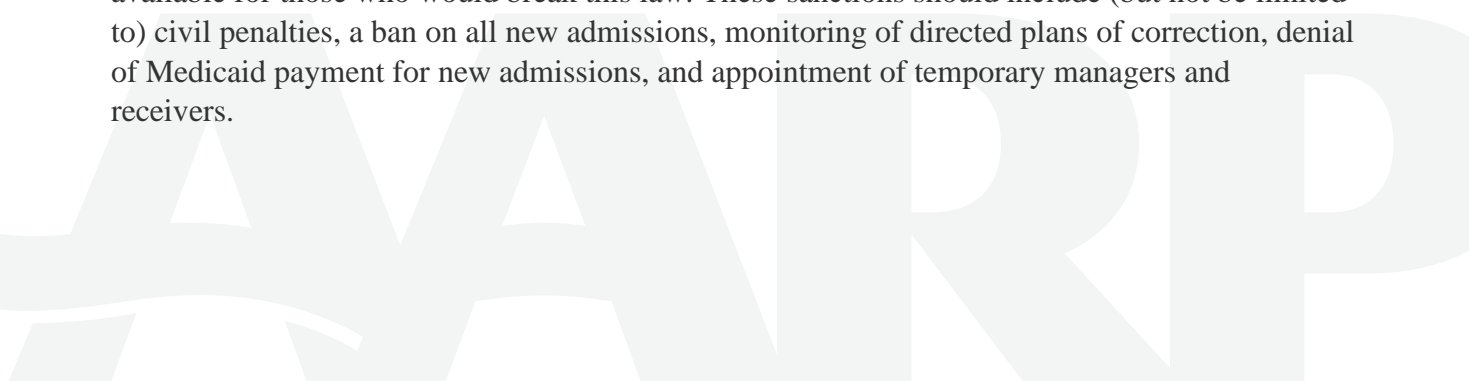
**SB 952 Assisted Living Programs – Assisted Living Referrers and Prohibitions**  
**FAVORABLE**  
**House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Good Afternoon Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations 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 establishes additional requirements for an assisted living referrer. An assisted living referrer must (1) maintain general liability insurance; (2) require employees to obtain a criminal history records check; (3) if medical information is exchanged, sign a document with the client or the client's representative in accordance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; and (4) maintain an electronic or written agreement between the assisted living referrer and the client or the client's representative, as specified. An assisted living referrer may not (1) request payment of a referral fee from an assisted living program more than two years after the assisted living referrer provided the referral or (2) sell the data of the client or the client's representative to another person. The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) must maintain a user-friendly database of licensed assisted living programs.

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](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.