



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 5, 2024

Bill Number: **HB1122**

Bill Title: Maryland Health Care Commission - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

MDOA Position: INFORMATION

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 1122 - Maryland Health Care Commission - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. Pursuant to a recent Executive Order, in January 2024, MDOA launched the Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative,¹ which will build upon existing efforts across state agencies, private and philanthropic sectors and other stakeholders to tackle real-life challenges throughout the lifespan, taking a whole-of-life and whole-of-government approach.

Skilled nursing facilities are a critical component of the long-term care ecosystem and an important component of longevity-readiness. MDOA has a regulatory role over acquisitions of some skilled nursing facilities in the state where they are also part of a licensed continuing care retirement community (CCRC). MDOA expects to be able to adjust its acquisition review timelines as needed around any new MHCC skilled nursing facility acquisition review timelines adopted.

¹ See, Maryland Department of Aging: Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative *available at*: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/LRM.aspx>



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Since summer 2023, MDOA participated in the Nursing Home Acquisitions workgroup convened by MHCC pursuant to House Bill 702 and Senate Bill 509 of 2023. MDOA remains concerned about the presence of triple and quad rooms in skilled nursing facilities and suggests MHCC and OHCQ continuously work towards their phase out in Maryland. MDOA suggests that Maryland would be well-served by looking to the Moving Forward Coalition² for guidance on strengthening acquisition review standards. California³ and Connecticut⁴ recently passed legislation that may provide helpful guidance for our state.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging

² Moving Forward Coalition, “Increasing Transparency and Accountability of Ownership Data,” *available at*: <https://movingforwardcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Increasing-Transparency-and-Accountability-of-Ownership-Data.pdf>

³ California AB1502, Freestanding Skilled Nursing Facilities, (2021), *available at*: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1502/id/2598935#:~:text=This%20bill%20would%20prohibit%20a.the%20department%20for%20that%20purpose.>

⁴ Connecticut HB06731, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Change In Ownership Of Health Care Facilities (2023), *available at*: <https://legiscan.com/CT/text/HB06731/2023>



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