



## **Senate Bill 376**

### *Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Nursing Homes*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 4, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 376. This bill extends authority to local governments requesting to oversee and maintain standards for nursing homes. Under the bill, if a county requests this authority, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) would work in partnership to grant it and share the associated costs.

Nursing homes provide critical care to some of Maryland's most vulnerable residents, making it essential that they adhere to strict health and safety regulations. However, enforcement can be challenging due to staffing shortages and high vacancy rates at the state level. By allowing local agencies to step in when they are able, this bill strengthens oversight and ensures that all nursing home residents receive safe and reliable care.

The provisions of this bill reflect a strong state-local partnership. Some counties have numerous nursing homes, while others have only a few—but all require accountability and effective enforcement. Allowing local governments to assist with inspections ensures that no facility goes unchecked simply due to limited State resources.

Counties believe that, given ongoing workforce challenges, allowing local agencies to complement State efforts when they feel they are capable is a wise strategy for protecting all Marylanders. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 376 a **FAVORABLE** report.