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Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 751

Health Facilities - Assisted Living Programs - Family Councils

Chair Beidle and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Senate Bill SB751 - Health Facilities - Assisted Living Programs - Family Councils

For the record, I am Senator Shaneka Henson from the 30th Legislative District of Anne Arundel County, MD.

This bill authorizes the owner, operator, or staff of an assisted living program with fifteen or more beds to create a “family council” (a group of individuals who work together to protect the rights of and improve the quality of life of the residents). An owner, operator, or staff of an assisted living program may lead the family council for up to six months, at which time a member of the family council must lead the family council.

A family council may consist of members of a resident’s family, or an individual appointed by the resident or the resident’s family, as specified. On written request of a family council, an assisted living program may assist the family council with administrative functions in a mutually agreed upon manner. An assisted living program must maintain specified records, respond to a family council within a certain time limit, and provide each new or prospective resident specified written information about the family council.

While legislation does exist regarding councils in assisted living facilities, this bill addresses items to strengthen and clarify its implementation.

After hearing from our panelists today, I urge you to give a favorable vote to this Bill.