



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

*Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Washington*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Sarah Mücke
6102460075*

Senate Bill 376 - Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Nursing Homes

Finance Committee February 4, 2025 Support

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

Senate Bill 376 (SB376) would require the Secretary of Health, on request of a county, to delegate the authority to conduct site visits and surveys of nursing homes, to the county. It would also require the Department of Health (Department) to equally share the cost of conducting the surveys and site visits.

Frequent inspections of nursing homes are integral to the safety of older adults. Unfortunately, the Department has failed to conduct most of its required inspections. In fact, more than 2/3rd of the states 222 nursing homes have not had their annual inspections in the past 15 months, as required by CMS.¹ In areas such as Montgomery County, 90% of nursing homes have not received their inspection during that time.² The Department has shown that it simply does not have the ability to keep up with required site visits, putting thousands of older Marylanders at risk.

SB376 would create a mechanism, similar to an MOU that was in place with Montgomery County and the Department for several years, but has since expired, to allow all counties, at their request, the ability do site visits and reports and receive some funding for them. When Montgomery County was able to do this, compliance rates were significantly higher. Let's make Maryland safer for older adults in our nursing facilities.

For these reasons, MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report for on SB 376.

¹ <https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MD>

² <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/4pq5-n9py>