



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill (HB) 576 - Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Video Recordings – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 576 - Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Video Recordings.

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is the designated State survey agency in Maryland and is authorized to conduct certification activities on behalf of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Through State and federal authority, OHCQ conducts surveys to determine compliance with State licensure and/or federal certification regulations, which establish the minimum requirements to remain licensed and/or certified.

House Bill 576 requires nursing homes and assisted living facilities to install, operate, and maintain video surveillance equipment in common areas of the facilities, such as dining areas, meeting rooms, hallways, facility entrances, activity rooms, and living rooms for the purpose of detecting abuse, neglect, or exploitation of residents.

If enacted, HB 576 will have a fiscal and operational impact on the Department of \$741,124 in the first fiscal year in order to hire additional staff to enforce the bill by inspecting 222 licensed nursing homes and 1,650 assisted living providers for their compliance in installing, operating, and maintaining video surveillance in common areas. This new expenditure is not eligible for any federal reimbursement as HB 576 mandates new State-only requirements.

In addition to the surveyors' regular on-site survey process, HB 576 requires surveyors to conduct a compliance check of the facilities' hardware, software capability, and network storage capacity for 120 days; video camera position to ensure that the equipment captures community areas (including night shift lighting); the facility's ability to transfer large video files to law enforcement and state personnel, and a plan for ongoing maintenance.

These additional requirements would add time to the survey process, including extra hours spent on documentation and writing any deficiencies concerning the video equipment. Likewise, OHCQ anticipates an additional volume of complaints from constituents/families related to alleged noncompliance with cameras by the facility.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott", is positioned above the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary