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HB 1409 Health - Medical Care Facilities - Electronic Monitoring Devices
House Health and Government Operations
House Judiciary Committee
March 6, 2025
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chairs Peña-Melnyk and Clippinger, and Members of the House Government Affairs and House Judiciary Committees. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our more than 850,000 members across the state, AARP Maryland strongly supports HB 1409, which upholds the rights of older Marylanders living in assisted living facilities—many of whom rely on these environments for their safety, dignity, and well-being. We thank Delegate Woorman for her leadership for introducing HB 1409.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for policies that improve the lives of older adults. Ensuring that residents of medical care facilities can protect themselves through electronic monitoring is a critical issue of transparency, safety, and personal autonomy.

Older Marylanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, including in assisted living facilities. These facilities should not have the authority to prohibit residents from using audio or video monitoring for their own protection. HB 1409 affirms this right by allowing residents—or their legal representatives—to request electronic monitoring as a safeguard.

Key Points About Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities:

- **Purpose:** Helps monitor the quality of care, detect potential abuse or neglect, and ensure proper medication administration.
- **Legal Considerations:** While not universally allowed, many states permit electronic monitoring, often requiring written consent from residents and their roommates, as well as notification to the facility.
- **Privacy Concerns:** Regulations must address the privacy of all individuals in shared living spaces, ensuring proper camera placement and usage guidelines.

According to AARP, several states—including Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and recently, Ohio—allow electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities, typically with resident consent. While regulations vary, resident safety must always be the priority. More information can be found in the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care fact sheet: [Balancing Privacy & Protection](#).

As Maryland's population continues to age, we must prioritize the independence and well-being of older adults. Inconsistent oversight and limited transparency in assisted living facilities have long been concerns for residents, families, and advocates. HB 1409 is a common-sense solution that enhances accountability and empowers residents to monitor their care.

AARP Maryland strongly urges the committee to support HB 1409 to protect the rights, safety, and dignity of older Marylanders. Families deserve peace of mind, knowing they have the tools to ensure their loved ones' well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration. For follow-up, please contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or 410-302-8451.