



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 7, 2025

Bill Number: HB1478

Bill Title: Public Health - Home Health Care Providers - Directory

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 1478 - Public Health - Home Health Care Providers - Directory.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population.

This bill charges the Department of Health with maintaining an online, searchable directory of home health care providers statewide, including records of trainings, certifications, language proficiency, work history, any abuse or neglect reports, and associated residential services. The bill allows for individual home health providers to opt into this service and for MDH to charge providers a fee to maintain the directory.

MDOA supports the concept of an enhanced statewide directory that supports the workforce caring for older adults as well as older adults and their families. Several other states have adopted different registries with different features. PHI and the National Alliance for Caregiving, national organizations focused on strengthening the care workforce, recommend the creation of matching service registries as effective vehicles for connecting individuals, families, and direct care workers.¹ This bill is responsive to that, and MDOA supports the position of MDH on this legislation, and acknowledges there is an existing Medicaid provider guide online

¹ PHI, National Alliance for Caregiving, "Together in Care" Issue Brief, June, 2024, p. 14, *available at*: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/64f13c772cfec42625cbdfa2/t/6686b5b3991bb54becce4163/1720104376140/TogetherinCare_IssueBrief_June_24.pdf



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that satisfies some of what this bill seeks to establish. MDOA acknowledges the fiscal impact the additional requirements of this legislation would have on MDH and supports MDH's proposed amendments.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Roques".

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging