



# 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

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## House Bill 429 - Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Nursing Homes

### Health and Government Operations Committee

February 6, 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.

House Bill 429, (HB429) 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 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the states 222 nursing homes have not had their annual inspections in the past 15 months, as required by CMS.<sup>1</sup> In areas such as Montgomery County, 90% of nursing homes have not received their inspection during that time.<sup>2</sup> 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.

HB429 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 HB429.

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

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