



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: House Bill 1363 - Places of Public Accommodation – Motion Picture Houses – Alterations
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee, The Honorable Will Smith, Chair
DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2025
POSITION: Favorable

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has more than 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers, whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA SUPPORTS efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide, while maintaining and enhancing their quality of life.

Current law requires only theaters with eight or more screens to provide some showings with open captioning. **On behalf of Maryland Continuing Care Residents, we support House Bill 1363**, which extends the requirement for open captioning to apply to theaters with four or more screens.

A substantial proportion of the population we represent suffers from hearing deficits, yet wish to continue to enjoy a full life, including going to the movies. Without captioning and being unable to hear and understand dialogue, there is no point for them in buying a ticket to a movie. While the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires movie theaters to provide closed captioning, many theaters currently have equipment that does not work properly or does not work at all. More importantly, even when in good repair, using these devices is cumbersome, inconvenient, and often difficult. Looking back and forth between the device and the screen interferes with full comprehension and pleasurable viewing. Having open captions provides a very welcome alternative to using these devices and makes going to the movies once again possible and enjoyable.

Captions benefit many people, not only elders who struggle with hearing loss, but other deaf and hard of hearing viewers. In addition, those learning English, those who have auditory processing issues, those who struggle with accents, and people learning to read find captions helpful if not essential.

For these reasons we support **House Bill 1363** and ask for a **favorable report**.

For further information please contact: Bruce Hartung, President, Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association at brucehartung@sbcglobal.net