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**HB 1372 - Public Health - Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland
Department of Health Centralization Commission
Senate Finance Committee
March 31, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 944. We appreciate Delegate Solomon and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee for sponsoring this important legislation.

My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, representing approximately 850,000 members. AARP brings the lived experiences and priorities of older Marylanders to the policymaking process, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of adults age 50 and over.

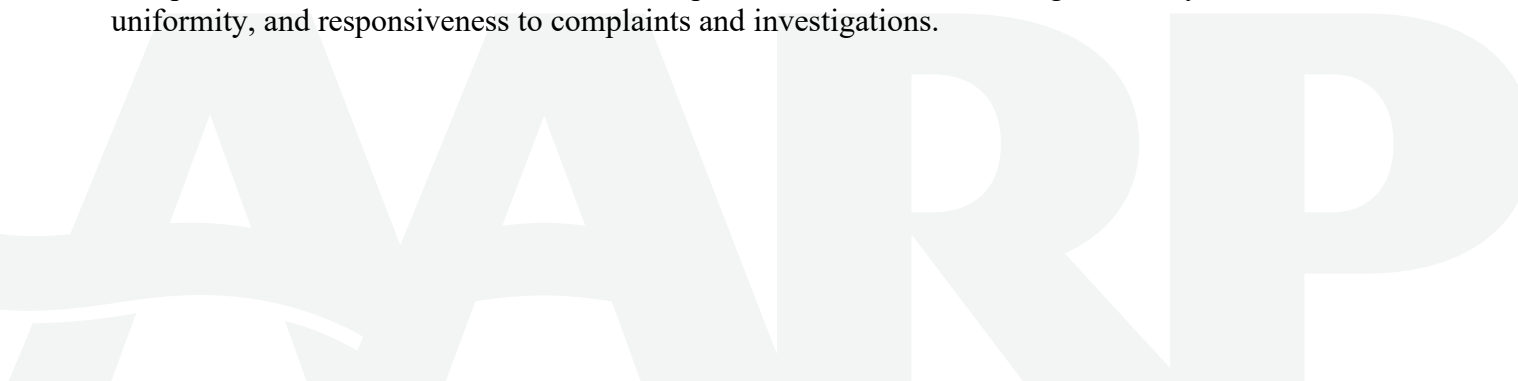
For the families of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, information is protection. Yet today, it is far too difficult for loved ones to understand when a facility was last inspected, what inspectors found, or whether a home is overdue for the evaluation required by law.

HB 1372 directly responds to this longstanding concern by requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, working with the Office of Health Care Quality, to publish clear, timely, and accessible inspection information online. This includes the date of the most recent inspection, any quality ratings or metrics from that inspection, the next scheduled inspection, and a statement if a facility has not been inspected within the required timeframe.

For families making life-altering decisions about nursing home placement, this is not just transparency; it is empowerment. When inspection reports are hidden or outdated, the consequences fall hardest on residents who cannot speak up for themselves.

The Importance of Consistent Oversight

Maryland's health occupations boards play vital roles in ensuring safe care delivery across the state. But recurring audit findings and inconsistent administrative processes have repeatedly created risks. HB 1372 creates the Maryland Health Centralization Commission, giving the General Assembly a structured, ongoing body to examine and improve oversight of the health occupations boards, coordination with the Department of Health, licensing efficiency and uniformity, and responsiveness to complaints and investigations.



For older adults and nursing home residents, timely investigations, reliable licensure oversight, and consistent enforcement are essential safeguards. Fragmented systems leave too much room for failures that directly affect resident safety.

Making inspection data public helps those without professional connections or insider knowledge, particularly those navigating the long-term care system for the first time.

Conclusion

Older Marylanders deserve care that is safe, transparent, and accountable. Their families deserve straightforward information when evaluating care options. For these reasons, AARP Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1372.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to Maryland's older adults.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at swestrick@aar.org or 410-310-0374.