

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County



Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3575
800-492-7122 Ext. 3575
Karen.LewisYoung@senate.maryland.gov

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair
Pensions Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
253 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-662-8520

The Honorable Pam Beidle
The Honorable Antonio Hayes
Finance Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 3rd, 2026

SB0240: Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and esteemed members of the Finance Committee,

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) in the Department of Health is charged with monitoring compliance and developing regulations for minimum standards of care. Nevertheless, Maryland faces a number of healthcare-related challenges. SB 240 will establish a Stakeholder Advisory Council to assist the Office of Health Care Quality by providing feedback on the oversight of the State's numerous health care facilities.

The Stakeholder Advisory Council will be composed of 22 members representing a diverse cross-section of the health care industry and state government. The Advisory Council will meet twice a year. During the meeting:

1. OHCQ will provide the Advisory Council with data from the preceding 6 months on
 - a. the number of hospitals actively monitored,
 - b. nursing homes inspected,
 - c. complaints received from hospital patients and long-term care residents, and
 - d. code violations at each facility.
2. OHCQ will also provide data on the average time for the Office to respond to each complaint and the number of complaints resolved by the Office.
3. The Advisory Council will then compile member feedback into a summary report containing recommendations to continue improvement of nursing home and hospital care quality.

Importantly, the advice of the Advisory Panel is non-binding. Instead, the Advisory Council provides a non-regulatory forum for engagement and transparency. This Stakeholder

Advisory Council is modeled after similar councils that have been in use by the federal government for over 50 years. More than 50 federal agencies utilize the stakeholder advisory council model. They help inform regulatory processes, assist agencies in policy development, make agencies more responsive, and ensure that the public is receiving the service they are entitled to.

I request a favorable report,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Senator Karen Lewis Young