



Building a Just Society

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SB240: Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council – Establishment

Senate Finance Committee, February 3, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Health and Benefits Equity Project advocates to protect and expand access to healthcare and safety net services for Marylanders struggling to make ends meet. We support policies and practices that are designed to eliminate economic and racial inequities and enable every Marylander to attain their highest level of health. **The PJC supports SB240, which would increase oversight of Maryland’s healthcare system.**

Maryland’s Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is entrusted with ensuring that Maryland patients receive adequate care and with investigating complaints of abuse and neglect in Maryland healthcare facilities. Yet, OHCQ has not been able to fulfill its mandate. **Maryland currently ranks #42 out of 51 states and D.C. in fulfilling its obligations to oversee nursing facilities**, with numerous facilities that have not had an inspection in over three years.¹

SB240 would allow patients, frontline workers, and advocates to provide feedback to OHCQ on how to improve oversight of Maryland healthcare facilities. Importantly, SB240 would also provide the public with ongoing data about the number of complaints received and resolved by OHCQ, and the average length of time it took OHCQ to respond to complaints. Increasing accountability for timely investigations is essential to addressing unsafe conditions. When investigations are late, it can lead to patients being exposed to additional harm, evidence can be lost, and redress can become harder to achieve. Public accountability is a vital step towards better protecting Maryland patients.

For these reasons, the PJC **SUPPORTS SB240** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report. Should you have any questions, please call Sam Williamson at 410-625-9409 ext. 234.

¹ StarPro, *Outdated Survey List*, <https://getstarpro.com/old-survey-list/> (last checked January 30, 2026).