



**2026 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** **HB 945 - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities – Notification of Investigations and Establishment of the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative**

**COMMITTEE:** **Senate - Finance Committee**

**POSITION:** **Letter of Support As Amended**

**BILL ANALYSIS:** **HB 945 would require the Maryland Department of Health to notify the local health department in a county if an investigation is initiated against a nursing home in that county within a certain time frame and as permitted by federal law, and to the extent practicable, consult and coordinate with the local health department on the compliant investigation and response. The bill does not require a local health department to assist or assume nursing home oversight responsibilities of the Maryland Department of Health per federal or State law. It also establishes a Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative.**

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) supports HB 945 as amended. The bill would require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to notify a local health department (LHD) of any investigations related to nursing home complaints in that LHD’s jurisdiction within twenty-four hours after initiating the investigation. This would ensure MDH is compliant with federal law regarding investigation notification but still allow LHDs to be notified of an action in their jurisdiction.

It would also require MDH, to the extent practicable and as permitted by federal law, to consult and coordinate with the local health department on the complaint investigation and response. MACHO agrees with the caveat in the bill that this consultation and coordination does not construe that a LHD will be required to assume nursing home federal or State oversight responsibilities of MDH.

LHDs and OHCQ each play an important role in supporting nursing home facilities in the state and ensuring the health and appropriate care of nursing home residents. LHDs work closely with nursing home facilities in their jurisdictions on communicable disease prevention, treatment, and outbreak management, as well as supporting these facilities with emergency preparedness and response. OHCQ is responsible for licensure and monitoring the quality of care at nursing facilities, as directed by both the state and federal governments. Local Health Officers can help OHCQ with linkages to other county agencies and entities as appropriate for OHCQ’s investigation. As amended, these roles are further strengthened.

MACHO respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for HB 945. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

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