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Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
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The Senate of Maryland ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 123 – Oversight Committee Membership

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 123.

As drafted, this consensus bill revises the number of Senators and Delegates on the *Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities*.

I have coordinated with both the House and Senate committees, the Department of Aging and with the *Oversight Committee*.

Currently in law, 2 Senators and 2 Delegates are assigned to the Committee. This bill makes it 1 Senator and 1 Delegate.

The reason is because prior to 2023, this *oversight* committee had shared responsibility between EEE and Finance. Thus 2 Senators were assigned to the committee, and the House matched the number of Senators on the committee with 2 of their own Delegates.

In 2023, the Senate Committee names were changed along with their scope of responsibility, and as a result the *oversight* committee no longer was under 2 Senate committees but just Finance.

Therefore, the Senate now only needs one member on the *oversight* committee. And since there is only one Senate member needed, the House no longer desires to have 2 members but 1 as well.

Just as a note: This bill was part of a bigger bill that passed the senate last year. Last year's bill also updated more than 60 incorrect committee name references in our laws.

However, the House decided to let the Annual Corrective bill update all the committee reference names this session. Therefore, the bill didn't move in the House last year.

There was one portion of last year's bill that was a policy decision that couldn't be updated in the Annual Corrective bill – The Senate and Delegate membership on the *Oversight committee*.

So, this bill now simply updates the *Oversight* membership as just described.

There is one amendment that I support and was proposed by the Department of Aging to update the membership on the committee as some groups are defunct now and some names have changed.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration with amendments.