



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: Favorable

Date: March 31, 2026

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease and the many others with another type of dementia, the Alzheimer's Association supports HB 945. This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to notify and consult with local health departments whenever an investigation is initiated into a nursing home complaint alleging harm to a resident. As amended, the bill also establishes the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative, a statewide effort to strengthen quality of care across both nursing homes and assisted living programs.

HB 945 addresses a critical area of long-term care quality that impacts many Marylanders living with dementia who rely on these long-term care settings for care and safety. By requiring that MDH alerts and coordinates with local health departments when a harm-related investigation begins at a nursing home, the bill supports a more timely, informed, and community-responsive oversight process. Local health officials bring essential contextual knowledge that can improve the effectiveness and completeness of state investigations.

In addition, the Alzheimer's Association supports HB 945's amendments establishing the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative. By creating this Initiative, which calls for cross-agency collaboration with state leadership, HB 945 recognizes that lasting improvements in long-term care quality cannot occur in silos. The Initiative is charged with identifying strategies to enhance the quality of care across nursing homes and assisted living programs, improve affordability and accessibility, and ensure that Maryland makes the best possible use of available data and statewide expertise. Residents with dementia often have complex medical needs, rely on staff with specialized training, and face heightened risks when quality lapses occur. A coordinated Initiative, supported and staffed by MDH, ensures that Maryland can identify challenges and guide improvement efforts.

For these reasons, the Alzheimer's Association urges a favorable report on HB 945. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.