



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 24, 2026

Bill Number: SB 493

Bill Title: Nursing Facilities - Involuntary Discharge or Transfer

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

MDOA Position: Favorable

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Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 493, which strengthens protections for residents of nursing facilities by updating requirements around involuntary transfers and discharges. This important legislation aligns with long-term goals established in the state’s longevity planning efforts and is consistent with our mission to protect the health, wellbeing, and dignity of older Marylanders.

Maryland’s demographic landscape is shifting rapidly. According to projections, the older adult population, already significant, will represent a larger share of Maryland’s residents in the coming decade. Preparing for this change is at the heart of the state’s Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) initiative, a comprehensive, 10-year multisector plan launched to ensure that Maryland supports healthy, secure, and purposeful lives for its older residents. Its framework is informed by population projections showing that Marylanders aged 60 and older will constitute roughly a quarter or more of the state’s population by 2030, a trend that underscores the urgency of policy responses that sustain quality care, housing stability, and equitable access to services.

SB 493 supports this vision by enhancing protections that help ensure residents of nursing facilities, particularly those with complex health needs and limited options, are not displaced into unsafe or disruptive circumstances before appropriate care planning and confirmations have occurred.



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For many older Marylanders, nursing facilities provide essential long-term care services that support daily living, medical needs, and social engagement. Forced or premature transfers can destabilize a resident’s health, particularly for those with cognitive impairments or multiple chronic conditions, and can undermine their ability to remain in safe, supportive environments.

SB 493 addresses specific gaps in existing discharge practices by requiring adequate notice before an involuntary discharge or transfer; ensuring residents receive critical information before movement to different settings; and strengthening the post-discharge planning process so families, caregivers, and support entities are informed and prepared.

These protections reflect the fundamental principles of respect, person-centeredness, and dignity that are core to both quality care and the Longevity Ready Maryland plan’s Epic Goals, including optimizing health, wellness, and mobility for Marylanders of all ages.

The Department’s implementation of Longevity Ready Maryland is focused on building more resilient systems of care that are coordinated across agencies, communities, and providers, including the long-term services and supports continuum that nursing facilities sit within. This legislative proposal strengthens that system by reducing unnecessary disruptions and prioritizing continuity of care for vulnerable populations. Protections such as those established by SB 493 help operationalize these goals by reducing avoidable transitions that can exacerbate health disparities and increase stress for residents and caregivers alike.

The Maryland Department of Aging respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 493. This legislation advances core elements of Maryland’s longevity agenda, enhancing resident protections, strengthening care continuity, and supporting an age-friendly care continuum that complements the goals of Longevity Ready Maryland.