



Bill: SB 493 - Nursing Facilities - Involuntary Discharge or Transfer

Committee: Finance

Position: Favorable

Date: February 24, 2026

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association supports SB 493. This legislation will strengthen protections for nursing home residents regarding involuntary discharge or transfers.

One of the most important provisions of this bill is the requirement that all residents receive at least 30 days' notice before an involuntary discharge or transfer, regardless of how long they have lived in the facility. This closes a longstanding gap, which previously only required a notice if an individual lived in the nursing home for at least 30 days. This update will ensure that families and caregivers have adequate time to understand the discharge decision, pursue assistance, and make safe alternative arrangements, regardless of how long their loved one has been in nursing home care. For people living with dementia, who may need extended time to adjust, plan, and secure appropriate care settings, this notice period is essential to their well-being.

Equally significant is the requirement that any involuntary discharge or transfer must result in placement that is safe, secure, and sustainable for the resident. This bill will require that a post-discharge plan identify the resident's intended address and to confirm that the receiving environment is appropriate and prepared to meet the resident's needs. This aligns with dementia-care research showing that poorly coordinated transitions heighten risks for confusion, distress, and unmet care needs, placing both individuals and caregivers under significant strain. Ensuring that a receiving setting has confirmed readiness and is appropriate is essential to preventing avoidable harm.

By requiring a universal 30-day notice, mandating safe and sustainable discharge locations, and strengthening transition safeguards, SB 493 meaningfully improves the protections for Maryland's most vulnerable long-term care residents. For these reasons, the Alzheimer's Association respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 493. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.