

JARED SOLOMON
Legislative District 18
Montgomery County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Chair

Oversight Committee on Personnel

House Chair

Joint Audit and Evaluation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 312
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3130
800-492-7122 Ext. 3130
Jared.Solomon@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1372 Testimony – Senate Finance Committee
Office of Health Care Quality Information & Maryland Health Centralization Commission
March 31, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to present on HB 1372, Public Health - Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Centralization Commission. This legislation creates a commission to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the General Assembly on improving the relationship between MDH and the 22 Health Professional Boards and Commissions (HPBCs) with a focus on achieving greater efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Recent audits have highlighted issues with the HPBCs in several areas including investigations around fraudulent nursing licenses/complaints against licensees and timely inspections of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. There were also issues related to outdated and inefficient systems including financial systems and procedures around collections, and cybersecurity/IT systems.

The Commission would examine ways to help HPBCs establish better policies and procedures for all investigations, improve licensee application processing time, and how to best integrate the various systems that the 22 HPBCs use, including licensing, finance, HR, and IT systems.

Additional areas of exploration and recommendation include:

- The potential consolidation of systems, such as establishing a comprehensive licensure system across Boards;
- Integrating the various administrative systems the Boards use including email, finance, and human resources, and exploring the use of existing State systems where possible; and
- Increasing transparency by growing public awareness and usage of the Maryland Healthcare Commission's Quality Reporting website.

The MHCC website has key information and ratings for healthcare facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living, and hospice care. Under the bill, more data will be published to the website, including the most recent inspection date of these facilities, whether inspections were conducted on time, late, or were not done, and any associated data from inspections that can assist State residents with selecting the appropriate healthcare setting for family members.

The Commission is structured as follows:

- The Commission is chaired jointly by one member each from the House and Senate;
- Members include:
 - The MDH Secretary, and Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services;
 - The Executive Directors of the four largest Boards: (Nursing, Physicians, Pharmacy, and Social Work);
 - Three Executive Directors (or their designees) from the remaining Boards, jointly selected by the remaining Boards;
 - Any additional members deemed necessary by the Chairs (in consultation with the Boards);
- Each Board will designate a representative to work with the Commission; and
- DLS will staff the Commission.

Reporting and Cybersecurity

- Under the bill, the Commission is required to report its findings, recommendations, and any draft legislation to the JAEC, the House Health and Senate Finance Committees, and the Governor by December 1 each year.
- Additionally, each of the Boards must certify to DoIT that its IT systems meet the State's minimum cybersecurity requirements, by July 1 each year.

Overall, this legislation will address recent audit findings, provide a way to explore options for consolidation and integration of services where it makes sense, and improve outcomes across all Boards for licensees, care recipients, and the Boards themselves. The most recent amendments reflected in this summary were also done in conjunction with substantial input from the Boards, the bill is a priority of the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee, and passed the House 129-1.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report for HB 1372.