



Maryland
Long-Term Care
Ombudsman Program

Date: February 23, 2026

Bill Number: **HB 1002**

Bill Title: Nursing Facilities - Involuntary Discharge or Transfer

Committee: Health

Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program thanks the Chair and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill (HB) 1002 – Nursing Facilities – Involuntary Discharge or Transfer.

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman advocates for the health, safety, well-being and rights of residents in Maryland’s nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Each year, our program receives thousands of complaints from residents, family members, and representatives. Discharges and evictions remain the number one complaint our ombudsmen receive across the state, year after year. These discharges often occur without adequate notice, planning, or coordination, leaving vulnerable residents at risk of homelessness, hospitalization, or placement in unsafe settings.

HB 1002 provides a critical safeguard by requiring nursing homes to give every resident a 30-day written notice before an involuntary discharge, except in limited circumstances that ensure resident safety. This measure will ensure that facilities and residents have the time needed to work together and plan appropriately, secure suitable housing, and coordinate needed services and supports in the community.

Specifically, HB 1002 will:

- **Enhance due process** by establishing a clear, standardized requirement that is understandable and enforceable for residents and providers alike.
- **Increase transparency** by ensuring residents receive written notice explaining the reasons for discharge, their right to appeal, and how to access assistance from the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

- **Strengthen protections** for vulnerable residents by preventing abrupt or unsafe discharges that can lead to homelessness, repeated hospitalizations, or loss of access to necessary medical care.
- **Promote safe and sustainable transitions** by giving residents and their families time to coordinate community resources, housing, and follow-up support, increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

Every nursing home resident deserves a safe, secure, and sustainable discharge process—one that protects their rights, maintains their dignity, and supports their well-being as they move into the community. HB 1002 upholds the spirit and intent of both federal and state resident rights law by ensuring that every discharge is handled with fairness, preparation, and transparency. This bill strengthens accountability, protects resident rights, and helps prevent premature or unsafe discharges that can have devastating consequences.

For these reasons, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman urges a **favorable** report on HB 1002.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to protecting Maryland's long-term care residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Karrie Craig

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Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman