

KATHERINE A. KLAUSMEIER
County Executive



PAM KASEMEYER
Director of Government Affairs

BRAD KRONER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

KAYENDA TWESIGYE
State Legislative Officer

BILL NO: HB 1002

TITLE: Nursing Facilities – Involuntary Discharge or Transfer

SPONSOR: Delegate Lopez

COMMITTEE: Health

POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: February 25, 2026

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1002 – Nursing Facilities – Involuntary Discharge or Transfer. Baltimore County is home to one of the largest older adult populations in Maryland. More than 200,000 residents in our county are age 60 and older, and that number continues to grow. Statewide, nearly 1 in 4 Marylanders is age 60 or older. As our population ages, ensuring stability, dignity, and due process in long-term care settings becomes increasingly critical.

Baltimore County Department of Aging (BCDA) works closely with residents of nursing facilities, their families, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to address concerns related to involuntary discharges and transfers. While federal and state laws already limit when such discharges may occur, we continue to see situations where residents and families experience confusion, inadequate notice, unclear discharge destinations, or discharge planning that does not adequately ensure safety and continuity of care.

House Bill 1002 strengthens existing protections in meaningful and practical ways.

First, the bill prohibits involuntary discharge to hotels, shelters, or other temporary housing not identified in the official notice. Discharging a medically vulnerable older adult to temporary or unstable housing is not only disruptive, but can lead to medication errors, hospital readmissions, homelessness, and long-term health decline. This bill reinforces the principle that discharge destinations must be appropriate, confirmed, and prepared to accept the resident before transfer occurs.

Second, the bill enhances notice requirements. By requiring clear, standardized information including contact information for the hearing entity, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and Disability Rights Maryland, residents and families are better equipped to understand and exercise their rights. In our experience, many residents are unaware that they can request a hearing or consult legal assistance. Transparent and accessible notice is fundamental to procedural fairness.

KATHERINE A. KLAUSMEIER
County Executive



PAM KASEMEYER
Director of Government Affairs

BRAD KRONER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

KAYENDA TWESIGYE
State Legislative Officer

Third, the bill strengthens discharge planning. Requiring identification of the exact discharge address and ensuring that the environment is safe, secure, and sustainable promotes continuity of care and reduces preventable crises. As the Area Agency on Aging, BCDA sees firsthand the downstream consequences of rushed or incomplete discharge planning: increased caregiver strain, emergency room visits, housing instability, and re-institutionalization.

Importantly, House Bill 1002 maintains flexibility in true emergencies while ensuring that routine discharges follow a thoughtful, resident-centered process. It also clarifies that updated notices restart the 30-day period, preventing last-minute changes that leave families scrambling.

Maryland has made significant investments in aging in place, caregiver support, and community-based services. Those investments must be complemented by strong safeguards for individuals who reside in nursing facilities. Stability in housing and care settings is directly tied to health outcomes, dignity, and quality of life.

House Bill 1002 reinforces Maryland's commitment to protecting some of our most vulnerable residents. It provides clarity to facilities, safeguards to residents, and stronger collaboration with oversight and advocacy programs.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1002 from the House Health Committee. For more information, please contact Kayenda Twesigye, State Legislative Officer of Government Affairs at ktwesigye@baltimorecountymd.gov.