



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

*Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Megan Peters
410-921-9005*

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that support policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports HB 1002. HB 1002 strengthens protections for nursing home residents regarding involuntary discharge or transfers. Specifically, it closes a longstanding loophole in the notice of involuntary discharge/transfer, as well as ensuring discharge placement is safe, secure, and sustainable for the resident.

One of the most important provisions in HB 1002 is the requirement that **all residents, not only those who have lived in a facility for 30 days, receive a minimum of 30 days' written notice before an involuntary discharge or transfer occurs.** This long-needed update ensures that older adults and their caregivers have sufficient time to understand the discharge decision, seek assistance, file an appeal if necessary, and arrange safe, appropriate next steps. Predictable notice is a basic protection, and HB 1002 guarantees it for all residents.

Equally critical is the bill's requirement that **any involuntary discharge must result in a placement that is safe, secure, and sustainable.** MSCAN members see firsthand the consequences when individuals are discharged to locations that cannot meet their needs. HB 1002 sets a clear expectation that receiving settings must be prepared and appropriate, and that a post-discharge plan must include essential information, including the resident's intended address. These protections help prevent residents from being discharged to temporary or unsafe environments, reduce the risk of cycles of crisis and re-entry into institutional care, and promote stable community living.

These protections can strengthen care coordination across Maryland's long-term services and supports system. When transitions are planned, supported, and safe, older adults remain healthier, caregivers experience less stress, and community resources can be deployed more effectively. HB 1002 promotes consistency, accountability, and transparency, improving the experience of residents and families while supporting the broader continuum of care.

For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report for HB 1002.