



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 23, 2026

Bill Number: HB 965

Bill Title: Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment

Committee: House Health Committee

MDOA Position: Letter of Concern

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of concern on behalf of the Maryland Department of Aging for House Bill (HB) 965 - Office of Health Care Quality - Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment.

Under longtime statutory authority, MDOA already leads the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. MDOA acknowledges that this new advisory council would be broader in its reach as it proposes to cover hospitals and other health care facilities regulated by OHCQ. However, there still would be some overlap in the membership and focus of the two bodies: both would be charged with having similar discussions about care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The apparent intent of this legislation is understandable: for key stakeholders and the public regular opportunities to convene, share feedback directly and receive updates from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ). However, the additional convenings, preparation, and follow up communications could divert substantial OHCQ resources and attention from other critical tasks, which MDOA supports. MDOA also shares privacy related concerns raised by the Maryland Department of Health given that these convenings would be public.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.