

SENATE BILL 884

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By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2023

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Workgroup to Study the Establishment of an**
3 **Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish a
5 Workgroup to Study the Establishment of an Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced
6 Care Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Department of Health and
7 the provision of assisted living services.

8 Preamble

9 WHEREAS, Between 2015 and 2030, Maryland's population of residents age 60 and
10 older is anticipated to increase from 1.2 million to 1.7 million, a 40% increase; and

11 WHEREAS, Of 22,904 licensed assisted living beds in Maryland, only 1,060 (less
12 than 5%) are occupied by older, low-income adults enrolled in the Medicaid Home and
13 Community-Based Options Waiver (HCBOW); and

14 WHEREAS, There are over 22,000 Maryland residents on an 8-year waiting list for
15 Medicaid HCBOW services and only a fraction of those potentially eligible for services are
16 able to enroll in the HCBOW program as many die or end up in nursing homes before
17 becoming eligible; and

18 WHEREAS, Current and future demand for services requires Maryland to evaluate
19 new solutions to provide greater access to cost-effective, community-based care for
20 low- and moderate-income adults to avoid costly institutionalization in hospitals and
21 nursing homes; and

22 WHEREAS, Studies have demonstrated that assisted living improves quality of life
23 by creating cohesive social environments and encouraging social participation and family
24 involvement and can reduce the overall cost of care; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, An Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program could create a
2 bundled payment for assisted living to promote new capacity and ensure adequacy of
3 payment for services; and

4 WHEREAS, An Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program could combine
5 high-quality assisted living residences with enhanced monitoring, care management,
6 medication management, and other programs to improve community tenure and reduce
7 institutionalization in hospitals or nursing homes; and

8 WHEREAS, Given the potential of an Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care
9 Program to increase access to long-term care services and supports, control costs, improve
10 community tenure, and reduce costly hospital and nursing home admissions, it is the intent
11 of the General Assembly that the Maryland Department of Health convene a workgroup to
12 study the feasibility of and propose design elements for such a program; now, therefore,

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (2) "Activities of daily living" means normal daily activities, including:

17 (i) eating or being fed;

18 (ii) grooming, bathing, and oral hygiene, including brushing teeth,
19 shaving, and combing hair;

20 (iii) mobility, transfer, ambulation, and access to the outdoors, when
21 appropriate;

22 (iv) toileting; and

23 (v) dressing in clean, weather-appropriate clothing.

24 (3) "Assisted living residence" means a residential or facility-based
25 program that provides housing and supportive services, supervision, personalized
26 assistance, health-related services, or a combination of these services, that meets the needs
27 of individuals who are unable to perform or need assistance in performing the activities of
28 daily living or instrumental activities of daily living in a way that promotes optimum
29 dignity and independence for the individuals.

30 (4) "Enhanced care" means the provision of services that are in addition to
31 the provision of services of an assisted living residence, such as:

32 (i) person-centered, individualized care planning;

33 (ii) regular, proactive monitoring of health status to promote early

1 detection and resolution of medical issues;

2 (iii) care management to ensure timely referral and access to medical
3 treatment and health-related services;

4 (iv) medication management to improve adherence and reduce
5 medication errors;

6 (v) assessment and referral to therapy and restorative nursing
7 programs;

8 (vi) health and wellness programs to help residents manage chronic
9 illness, reduce the risk of falling, and live a healthy lifestyle;

10 (vii) activities programs to reduce social isolation and help seniors
11 maintain an active lifestyle;

12 (viii) dietary services including nutritious meals and snacks; and

13 (ix) use of electronic medical records to improve care monitoring,
14 improve quality oversight, and support the tracking and reporting of quality indicators.

15 (5) "Instrumental activities of daily living" means home management
16 skills, including shopping for food and personal items, preparing meals, and handling
17 money.

18 (b) The Maryland Department of Health shall convene a Workgroup to Study the
19 Establishment of an Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program in the State.

20 (c) The Workgroup shall include:

21 (1) representatives of the Department;

22 (2) providers of assisted living services;

23 (3) present and future consumers of assisted living services;

24 (4) subject matter experts; and

25 (5) other relevant stakeholders.

26 (d) (1) The Workgroup shall study the feasibility of establishing a program to
27 establish affordable assisted living residences that provide enhanced care services in an
28 assisted living residence.

29 (2) The study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include
30 an examination of:

(i) the need for assisted living residences that provide enhanced care services;

(ii) characteristics of individuals who could benefit from enhanced care services provided in assisted living residences;

(iii) the types of services that should be provided under a program establishing affordable assisted living residences with enhanced care services;

(iv) the number and location of affordable assisted living residences with enhanced care services to establish under a program;

(v) criteria for ensuring the affordability of assisted living residences with enhanced care services under a program;

(vi) sources of available funding and funding levels needed to support a program establishing affordable assisted living enhanced care residences, including funding under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(vii) permissible uses of funding received by participating assisted living residences under a program;

(viii) criteria for selecting affordable assisted living enhanced care residences to participate in a program;

(ix) eligibility criteria for residents of affordable assisted living enhanced care residences under a program;

(x) outcome measures to evaluate the effectiveness of a program; and

(xi) any other relevant issues or considerations identified by the Workgroup.

(e) On or before November 1, 2023, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly that includes the findings and recommendations of the Workgroup.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.