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Cecil and Harford Counties

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations and
Long Term Care

Public Health and
Minority Disparities

Chair

Harford County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2020

HB771-Lodging Establishments-Accessible Rooms for Individuals-Bed Height

House Economic Matters Committee

Dear Chairman Davis and House Economic Matters Committee Members:

This bill requires that by April, 2021, each accessible room in a lodging establishment in Maryland that has at least four rooms, is furnished with a bed that measures at least 20 inches but not more than 23 inches high from the floor to the top of the mattress and has at least a 7 inch vertical clearance under the bed for lift access.

An accessible room is defined as a room in a lodging establishment that is in compliance with the transient lodging requirements of the American with Disabilities Act.

To date, there are no standards for bed height in accessible rooms. Those in wheelchairs, while able to be lodged in an accessible room, often find that they cannot be lodged in a room with a bed that is a height that is accessible.

According to the last US Census, there are 676,072 people with disabilities in Maryland; as of October 1, 2018, 87, 315 of these were veterans.

This bill does not alter State or Federal requirements for accessible rooms other than the height of the beds which is not regulated by federal or state law at present.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report from the Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa E. Reilly".

Delegate
District 35 B