



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 28, 2020

Senate Bill 444: State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators –
Board Membership and Provisional Licensing Requirements
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to testify about Senate Bill 444. We do wish to express our opposition.

HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities located in nearly every community in Maryland. HFAM members are the quality care safety net for Marylanders in need of post-acute and long-term care. Our members provide 6.2 million days of care across all payer sources annually, which accounts for 75 percent of Medicaid days, nearly 70 percent of Medicare days, and 45 percent of private pay days provided in Maryland skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers.

We oppose this legislation because it seeks to make three types of changes. We wish to express our opposition to two of these changes.

We do not object to making the requirement of 5 years' experience more broadly applicable among Board members.

However, we question why the legislation removes the existing requirement that appointments follow consultation with the associations and societies appropriate to the disciplines and professions involved. Such consultation is an appropriate part of the process. The current law does not mandate any appointment. The current law should be maintained.

Finally, we disagree with the proposed change to the temporary licensure process. The current law providing for a 90-day period should be maintained. It presents a risk to the facilities in need of a temporary administrator and who may be faced with a very short approval period. If an administrator can be temporarily approved for 30 days to provide appropriate services to a facility, we do not see a reason why a period of 90 days would pose any greater problem. The uncertainty the proposed legislation would introduce should, we believe, be avoided.

For these reasons and with these edits, we oppose Senate Bill 444.

Submitted by:

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