

Andrew N. Pollak, M.D.  
CHAIR



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**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**  
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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 204 – Health Care Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Memory Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Unit Regulations – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Kelley:

The Maryland Health Care Commission (the “MHCC”) is submitting this letter of information for HB 416 – Assisted Living Programs – Memory Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Unit Regulations.

This bill requires the implementation of regulations for Memory Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Units in assisted living facilities. The bill calls for the Maryland Department of Health to create specific standards that include requirements surrounding staff training, staffing patterns, frequency of nighttime bed checks, and clear admissions and discharge criteria and procedures. Furthermore, the bill calls for requirements for the frequency and type of activities available to residents, requirements for the training of staff in charge of activities, and requirements for adjusting activities to reduce social isolation during disease outbreaks.

Current regulations for assisted living facilities’ Alzheimer’s Special Care Units (COMAR 10.07.14.30) require units to be clear about staff training (including hours of dementia-specific training) and patterns, admissions and discharge procedures, and frequency and type of activities. The proposed bill requests that the regulations add specificity to already existing regulations. Additionally, the adopted regulations under COMAR 10.07.02.25 Comprehensive Care Facilities - Special Care Units – Dementia Care Unit are similar to the proposed bill. COMAR 10.07.02.25 states that Dementia Care Units must provide information about the placement, transfer, and discharge from the unit, staff training efforts and staffing patterns, and information on the frequency and types of resident activities. The proposed bill is requesting the implementation of similar requirements in assisted living facility Memory Care Units.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Ben Steffen, Executive Director, Maryland Health Care Commission at [ben.steffen@maryland.gov](mailto:ben.steffen@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Andrew Pollack, MD  
Chair



Ben Steffen  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Beidle