



**2021 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: HB 806 – Health Facilities -Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs – Essential Caregivers

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Letter of Information With Amendment

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 806 would require Maryland nursing homes and assisted living programs to establish policies and procedures related to essential caregivers, require that these facilities consult with the local Health Officer of their jurisdiction when setting the required policies, and other related actions.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) are supportive of procedures for essential caregivers which are suitable to the facility, the residents of those facilities, any regulatory or oversight body, the current health status of these communities and actions necessary in emergency conditions.

As written, HB 806 states that nursing homes or assisted living facilities may consult with the Health Officer for where the facility is located in relation to the essential caregiver policies and procedures. MACHO asks that HB 806 be amended in this manner:

~~2) A NURSING HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM MAY CONSULT 28 WITH THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE FACILITY 29 IS LOCATED WHEN ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UNDER PARAGRAPH 30 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

Health Officers and local health departments do not have jurisdiction over these facilities and do not currently perform this function. They would not be able to do so as described in the bill as currently introduced.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of information with amendment for HB 806. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*