

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.
(410) 576-6571

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.
(410) 576-6515

February 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: House Bill 554 (Division of Consumer Protection - Assisted Living Programs):
Support with Amendments

The Office of the Attorney General supports House Bill 554. The bill would require assisted living programs that have been appointed as representative payees for residents' Social Security benefits to file annual reports with the Consumer Protection Division. The representative payees would be required to report on the use of Social Security benefits by the residents, as well as report on the use by the residents of other federal, state, or local government funds that were allocated for the purpose of assisting individuals who are aged, disabled, or blind.

The Division currently receives referrals of alleged unfair, abusive or deceptive trade practices by assisted living programs from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ). We have spoken with the bill's sponsor about clarifying amendments to ensure the referrals continue, whether or not OHCQ refers the same allegations to the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health. We are submitting friendly amendments based on our discussions with the sponsor for submission to the subcommittee.

We urge the Committee to give House Bill 554 a favorable report with amendments.

cc: Sponsor

