



COMMISSION ON AGING

SB 677

March 11, 2022

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: James Campbell, Co-Chair
Olivia Farrow, Co-Chair
Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education

RE: Senate Bill 677– Maryland Health Care Commission -Nursing Homes - Audit

POSITION: Support

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education **supports** Senate Bill 677.

Senate Bill 677 requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct an annual audit of nursing home financial status and related issues. The bill also requires a survey of the workforce that includes questions about wages; working hours (including any mandatory or voluntary overtime), interactions with management and interactions with residents in the facility.

The Baltimore City Commission on Aging is concerned about the quality of care in nursing homes in our city, and across the state. Quality of care is closely linked to a stable, well trained and compassionate workforce, supported by management, committed to serving residents. Nursing homes must invest in that workforce, assuring that it is adequately compensated, and that on a daily basis, direct care workers provide sufficient hours of care to residents to ensure that they are able to live with dignity.

The required audit and survey under SB 677 will provide much needed data about how resources are allocated in Maryland’s nursing homes. This information should help the public, including families of nursing home



COMMISSION ON AGING

residents, learn more about the status and compensation of those who provide direct care to nursing home residents.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 677.