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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chair, Finance Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management
of Public Funds

Spending Affordability Committee

**SB613: State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators –
Requirements for Assisted Living Manager**

Good afternoon, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 613: State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators – Requirements for Assisted Living Manager.

In 2022, this committee passed Senate Bill 720, which was introduced by our then Chair Delores Kelley and I was a co-sponsor. That legislation renamed the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators to be the State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators. More importantly, the bill required the Board to license assisted living managers in the State by October 1, 2024. In addition, the bill required managers in small homes to take the 80-hour training, which they were previously exempted from taking.

This is a large undertaking. There are approximately 1700 assisted living programs in the State and it is estimated that the Board will be licensing upwards of 4,000 individuals given the number of managers, alternate managers, and others. At this time, the Board is requesting additional time for implementation.

Why do they need the extra time?

- Today only two of the five assisted living manager appointments to the Board as required by the legislation have been made.
- While the Board has requested additional employees, it only has two employees.
- Lastly, in order to be successful in the implementation, the Board needs an electronic licensing system, which it does not have yet.

SB 613 gives the small homes additional time to take the 80-hour course, providing greater flexibility on how that course can be delivered and assisting many of the owner operated homes to complete the course. The bill also requires the Board to provide three reports so that we can monitor their progress.

While I would have wanted to see the licensing go into effect this year, we can't impose a requirement on the Board without the resources to be successful, and we don't want to upend the industry.

This additional time to implement the program will ensure success; similar to the extensions needed for other implementation programs such as the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 613.