



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 938: State-Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Reporting Requirements**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon Madame Chair, Madame Vice Chair, Chair and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I am Delegate Crosby, and it is my honor to present HB 938, entitled State-Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Reporting Requirements.

You may recall that last year, we learned that residents at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home had been subjected to mistreatment and neglect, which harmed them physically and mentally. I brought HB 1301 as an emergency bill, in partnership with Senator Jack Bailey, and the bill passed and was signed into law. That bill created reporting requirements of deficiencies present at State-owned nursing homes.

Since that bill became law, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has requested some minor, technical changes to the legislation in order to maximize both the efficiency and effectiveness of this new law.

The bill will add to the list of possible monitoring agencies the Department of Labor, the local health department, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or OSHA. It will also clarify that contractors should provide notice of a deficiency or enforcement action within 15 days of the final survey finding, rather than “promptly.” It will also require that within 30 days after a contractor’s final acceptance of a plan of correction or completion of an informal dispute resolution, the department charged with oversight of the nursing home, shall provide the plan of correction or results of the aforementioned informal dispute resolution.

This is a simple bill that will help the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to more effectively protect some of our most vulnerable residents. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I respectfully request a favorable report.