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**SB 712 State Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Reporting
FAVORABLE
House Health and Government Committee
March 21, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. AARP, which advocates for the more than two million Marylanders age 50 and older. AARP MD supports SB 712. We thank Senator Bailey for sponsoring this important legislation.

SB 712 requires the Department with oversight of a State-owned nursing home operated by a contractor, instead of the contractor, to provide notice of certain deficiencies and enforcement actions to the Governor and to members of the General Assembly.

States should fund sufficient quality monitors to inspect all providers at least annually in long term care settings. Complaints should be responded to promptly. Inspections should be unscheduled. Follow-up inspections should also be conducted as needed to ensure quality problems are corrected. Quality monitors should receive thorough and ongoing training about the unique needs of older people, including those with lifelong disabilities.

States should focus their monitoring efforts on improving clinical, functional, and quality-of-life outcomes. They should use performance-based outcome measures, including but not limited to consumer-experience and satisfaction measures. Monitoring efforts should intensify as problems are detected in quality outcomes and as the complexity and intensity of services increase.

AARP believes that SB 712 holds those who run a state-owned nursing home accountable. Whoever runs the facility, has the care of our most vulnerable citizens. The state should take every effort to ensure residents have the best of care and if they don't, the Governor and General Assembly should be the first to know. We request a favorable report on SB 712. If you need to follow up, please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410302-8451.

