

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 931
Health

(Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

Finance

Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Medical Director Requirements

This bill requires a physician designated to serve as “medical director” of a nursing home to meet specified requirements. The bill removes the requirement for the Secretary of Health, in consultation with specified stakeholders, to establish qualifications for a nursing home medical director or anyone acting in their absence. Each nursing home must publish on the nursing home’s website, each medical director’s name, professional credentials, and certification status. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must adopt regulations, including regulations that establish (1) the educational and experiential requirements for a medical director certification that is equivalent to a Certified Medical Director (CMD) certification and (2) the process for approving a medical director certification. A physician designated as a medical director on or before September 30, 2026, must obtain a “medical director certification” by September 30, 2030. MDH may grant a physician a time-limited extension for obtaining a medical director certification on a showing of good cause.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH can promulgate regulations and grant medical director certification extensions with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Medical director” means the physician designated by a nursing home to oversee medical care and clinical policies at the nursing home in accordance with federal and State laws and regulations.

“Medical director certification” means: (1) a CMD certification issued by the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association; or (2) an equivalent credential approved by MDH.

To qualify to be designated as a medical director of a nursing home, a physician must hold a valid medical director certification or be making active progress toward obtaining such certification. A physician designated as a medical director must submit to MDH: (1) a copy of their medical director certification; or (2) satisfactory evidence of active progress toward obtaining a medical director certification.

Current Law: “Nursing home” means a facility (other than a facility offering domiciliary or personal care) that offers nonacute inpatient care to patients suffering from a disease, chronic illness, condition, disability of advanced age, or terminal disease requiring maximal nursing care without continuous hospital services, and who require medical services and nursing services rendered by or under the supervision of a licensed nurse together with convalescent, restorative, or rehabilitative services.

Each nursing home must designate a physician to serve as medical director. The medical director is responsible for monitoring physician services and must report monthly to the quality assurance committee on the quality of medical care at the nursing home. Under Maryland regulations (COMAR [10.07.02.16](#)), the medical director is also responsible for, among other things:

- overall coordination, execution, and monitoring of physician services;
- monitoring and evaluating health care services and outcomes;
- designating an alternate medical director;
- overseeing all physicians and other licensed or certified professional health care practitioners who provide health care to the facility's residents;
- recommending rules governing the performance of physicians and other licensed or certified professional health care practitioners who admit residents to the facility;
- recommending written policies and procedures;
- ensuring physician accountability;
- participating in the nursing home's quality improvement process; and
- other essential duties related to clinical care and physician practices.

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, and representatives of the nursing home industry, must: (1) establish qualifications for the medical director of a nursing home or anyone acting for the medical director in his or her absence; (2) define the duties of the medical director; and (3) adopt regulations for the attending physicians who treat residents of nursing homes that will provide for physician accountability.

Maryland regulations (COMAR [10.07.02.15](#)) require a medical director to have the following qualifications: (1) a current license as a physician in the State; (2) a least two years of experience or specialized training in the medical care of geriatric or chronically ill and impaired residents; and (3) successful completion of a curriculum in physician management or administration from The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine or a curriculum approved by MDH. The nursing home must submit a copy of the medical director's credentials to MDH upon a change in the medical director.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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