

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 945
Health

(Delegate Sample-Hughes)

Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), when investigating a nursing home complaint alleging actual harm or immediate jeopardy to a resident, to immediately notify the local health department for the county in which the nursing home is located. To the extent practicable within the time frames specified for investigating the complaint, MDH must consult and coordinate with the local health officer on the complaint investigation and response. The bill also makes a technical change to a reporting requirement.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Local health officers can consult and coordinate with MDH using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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.

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) within MDH generally makes an unannounced site visit and conducts a full survey of each licensed nursing home at least once per year. After a nursing home complaint alleging actual harm, OHCQ must initiate an investigation within 10 business days. If OHCQ receives a complaint alleging immediate jeopardy to a resident, it must make every effort to investigate the complaint within 24 hours, and no later than 48 hours, after receiving the complaint.

According to OHCQ's quarterly nursing home inspections [report](#) submitted in January 2026, OHCQ completed a total of 122 complaint surveys statewide between August 1, 2025, and October 31, 2025. The report does not specify how many complaints were for actual harm or immediate jeopardy.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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caw/jc

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