

Chapter 861

(House Bill 938)

AN ACT concerning

State–Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Reporting Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the department charged 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 certain persons; requiring that the notice be provided within a certain time period after a final survey finding; requiring the department charged with oversight, rather than the contractor, to provide certain information to certain persons within a certain time period after the contractor’s final acceptance of a plan of correction or completion of an informal dispute resolution, rather than after the contractor’s receipt of a citation or fine; and generally relating to State–owned nursing homes.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General
 Section 19–14C–01 and 19–14C–02
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2023 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

19–14C–01.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Deficiency” has the meaning stated in § 19–1401 of this title.
- (c) “Monitoring agency” means:
 - (1) The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; [or]
 - (2) The Office of Health Care Quality within the Department;
 - (3) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR;**
 - (4) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT;**

(5) THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS; OR**(6) THE FEDERAL OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

(d) “Nursing home” has the meaning stated in § 19–1401 of this title.

19–14C–02.

(a) (1) If a State–owned nursing home that is operated by a contractor receives a deficiency from or is subject to an enforcement action by a monitoring agency, **WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE FINAL SURVEY FINDING**, the [contractor promptly] **DEPARTMENT CHARGED WITH OVERSIGHT OF THE NURSING HOME** shall provide notice of the deficiency or enforcement action to:

(i) The Governor;

[(ii) The State agency overseeing the nursing home;] ~~and~~

[(iii)] **(II)** In accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the members of the General Assembly who represent the district in which the nursing home is located; **AND**

(III) THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE NURSING HOME IS LOCATED.

(2) Within 30 days after [a State–owned nursing home that is operated by a contractor receives a citation or fine from a monitoring agency, the contractor] **THE 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 to the Governor[, the State agency overseeing the nursing home,] and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the members of the General Assembly who represent the district in which the nursing home is located:

(i) A statement of the deficiencies found by the monitoring agency;

(ii) **[A] THE plan of correction OR RESULTS OF THE INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION;** and

(iii) All communications from the monitoring agency regarding survey activities conducted at the nursing home.

(b) On or before January 1 each year, beginning in 2024, the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on all federal and State:

(1) Survey activities conducted during the immediately preceding 12–month period at each State–owned nursing home that is operated by a contractor; and

(2) Enforcement actions imposed during the immediately preceding 12–month period on each State–owned nursing home that is operated by a contractor.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.