

MaCCRA **2026 End of Session Report**

The 2026 Legislative Session wrapped up on Monday, April 13th.

Together with State MaCCRA leadership, we worked to advance legislation clarifying exactly who is responsible for decision-making within Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). While some MaCCRA chapters currently do not face these challenges, this is an important issue for several chapters and will secure protections for the future.

MaCCRA actively collaborated with the Sponsors of the legislation and MaCCRA Chapters across the state to refine the language necessary for clarity and transparency in the law. The proposed clarifications are essential to ensure laws are followed as intended and to safeguard accountability for the impacted groups now and in the future.

Although these particular bills did not pass, substantial progress was made, successfully elevating the importance of this issue among legislators. This groundwork has laid the foundation for future legislative efforts on this governance issue.

In addition, MaCCRA supported legislation introduced by the Maryland Department of Aging to establish the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan. This statewide initiative aims to make Maryland an attractive place for seniors to retire, remain in their communities, and receive care at home, with multiple state agencies working together to enhance infrastructure, access to care, services, and housing for aging residents.

MaCCRA continued to collaborate closely with like-minded organizations like Caring Across Maryland (CAM), that work to advance senior and elder care issues across Maryland. MaCCRA lent its support to their legislative package which focused on hospital staffing, dementia care, provider workforce development, and improvements to nursing homes. By partnering with these types of organizations MaCCRA reinforces its commitment to ensuring quality and accessible care for Maryland seniors now and in the future.

The following report briefly summarizes some of the key bills we worked on for MaCCRA this Session. A complete chart of bills MaCCRA engaged on this year follows as an attachment to this report.

Priority Bills:

HB 0424	Continuing Care in a Retirement Community Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership	Delegate Kenneth Kerr
SB 0488	Continuing Care in a Retirement Community Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership (Sue Hecht Continuing Care Retirement Community Transparency Act)	Senator Karen Lewis Young

DID NOT PASS

MACCRA POSITION: SUPPORTED WITH WRITTEN AND IN PERSON TESTIMONY

This bill would have expanded the definition of “provider” with respect to the governing body of a continuing care in a retirement community (CCRC) to include a person who effectively controls the financial and policy decisions. If a provider owns or operates multiple facilities in the State, the governing body must include (1) as a regular member, one of the provider’s subscribers who is a subscriber at the facility with the most subscribers and (2) as an alternate member, at least one of the provider’s subscribers for every three facilities in the State, if applicable. The bill specifies that the purpose of a subscriber member of a governing body is to represent the interests of the provider’s subscribers and alters other provisions relating to a governing body of a CCRC. The bill also would have required a provider to include specified information on an application and a disclosure statement.

SB 0560	Continuing Care Retirement Communities - Refunds	Senator Charles E. Sydnor
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DID NOT PASS

MACCRA POSITION: SUPPORTED WITH WRITTEN TESTIMONY

This bill would have required a provider of continuing care in a retirement community to pay any contractual entrance fee refund no later than two years after the date a continuing care agreement is terminated, regardless of whether an entrance fee refund is conditioned on the reoccupying of a subscriber’s unit. If a continuing care agreement is terminated by written notice given by a subscriber, the termination date of the agreement must be the date on which the subscriber vacated the unit and removed all personal property. If a continuing care agreement is terminated on the subscriber’s death, the termination date of the agreement must be the date of the subscriber’s death.

HB 0215	Continuing Care Providers - Financial Stress Tests, Transparency, and Governing Bodies	Delegate Joe Vogel
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DID NOT PASS

MACCRA POSITION: SUPPORTED CONCEPT WITH WRITTEN TESTIMONY

This bill would have required the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), at least once a year, to conduct a financial stress test for a continuing care in a retirement community provider. MDOA must hire two analysts to perform and prepare reports on the financial stress tests. After reviewing a financial stress test report, MDOA’s Financial Review Committee must assign a grade to indicate the financial stability of the provider. The assigned grade must be publicly available on MDOA’s website. The bill also makes changes relating to providers’ quarterly meetings and governing body membership.

Department of Aging:

HB 0278	Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)	Chair of Health Committee
SB 0113	Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)	Chair of Senate Finance Committee

BILLS PASSED

MACCRA POSITION: SUPPORTED WITH WRITTEN TESTIMONY

This departmental bill codifies the “Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Plan,” and requires the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the LRM Plan with the goals of: (1) building a longevity ecosystem; (2) promoting economic opportunity; (3) preparing State residents to afford longevity; and (4) optimizing health, wellness, and mobility. By July 1, 2029, and every four years thereafter, the Secretary must provide the Governor and the General Assembly with an updated comprehensive LRM Plan. By January 1 each year, the Secretary must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on specified activities. The bill alters the membership and duties of the Commission on Aging. The bill also makes conforming changes.

HB 0804	Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment	Delegate Sarah Wolek
SB 0860	Department of Aging – Aging Resilience Fund – Establishment	Senator Craig J. Zucker

BILLS PASSED

MACCRA POSITION: MONITORED

This bill establishes the Aging Resilience Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to support implementation of the Maryland Department of Aging’s (MDOA) mission. The Secretary of Aging must administer the fund, which consists of (1) investment earnings; (2) any fees collected by MDOA; and (3) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund. Money received by MDOA from the fund is supplemental to and not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for projects or activities of MDOA. The fund may be used for expenses that align with the department’s mission, including partnership development, and any programs, services, or activities within MDOA. Expenditures from the fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget. The Governor may not reduce an appropriation for the fund in the State budget as approved by the General Assembly. Money appropriated for the fund must remain in the fund. By January 1 each year, the Secretary must submit a specified report to the General Assembly on the administration of the fund. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

Caring Across Maryland:

SB 0240	Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment	Senator Karen Lewis Young
HB 0965	Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment	Delegate Teresa Woorman

DID NOT PASS

MACCRA POSITION: SUPPORTED WITH WRITTEN TESTIMONY

This bill would have established the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) Stakeholder Advisory Council in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to (1) provide feedback to OHCQ from stakeholders regarding maintaining oversight of health care facilities and (2) notify the Secretary of Health if OHCQ is reported negligent in providing oversight of health care facilities. MDH must

provide staff for the advisory council. Beginning January 1, 2027, the advisory council must hold a virtual public meeting once every six months. By December 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the advisory council must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

HB 0624	Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026)	Delegate Jennifer White Holland
SB 0411	Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026)	Senator Malcolm Augustine

BILLS PASSED

MACCRA POSITION: REGISTERED SUPPORT

This bill requires each hospital to comply with the staffing standards of the accreditation body that accredits the hospital and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoPs). Each hospital must establish and maintain a clinical staffing committee that has (1) three managers and two employees, if the hospital has 150 or fewer licensed beds or (2) five managers and four employees, if the hospital has 151 or more licensed beds. The chief nurse executive of each hospital must produce a draft clinical staffing plan and submit it to the clinical staffing committee. Using the draft plan, each clinical staffing committee must finalize a clinical staffing plan that meets patient needs. Each hospital must provide the clinical staffing plan to staff on request. The bill does not apply to State hospitals. The bill may not be construed to require a hospital to take actions that are inconsistent with CMS CoPs or accreditation standards.

SB 0663	Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports	Senator Benjamin F. Kramer
HB 1414	Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports	Delegate Ashanti Martinez

DID NOT PASS

MACCRA POSITION: REGISTERED SUPPORT

This bill would have required a nursing home to expend at least 75% of its total nursing and residential care revenue for “direct care wages and benefits.” By September 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each nursing home must submit to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) a cost report that must include documentation of wage disbursement and any other information MDH determines is appropriate, and it must be signed by an authorized representative of the nursing home under penalty of perjury. MDH may take appropriate enforcement action against a nursing home for specified violations.

HB 0446	Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Toolkit	Delegate Ashanti Martinez
SB 0555	Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Toolkit	Senator Antonio Hayes

BILLS PASSED

MACCRA POSITION: PROVIDED WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

This bill establishes the Dementia Services and Brain Health Program in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to lead the State’s public health efforts relating to brain health and dementia. By October 1, 2027, MDH, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Council (council), and other

organizations with expertise in Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, must establish and maintain a provider resource toolkit for dementia care for health care providers. By January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, MDH must review and update the information in the toolkit.

HB 1129	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies - Wages and Leave for Personal Care Aides	Delegate Lesley J. Lopez
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DID NOT PASS

MACCRA POSITION: PROVIDED WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

This bill would have required a “provider agency” to (1) pay a personal care aide (PCA) a wage of at least \$17 per hour and (2) provide specified sick and safe leave. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) may request documentation from a provider agency to demonstrate compliance with the wage requirement. MDH may take appropriate enforcement action against a provider agency if the provider agency fails to comply with the bill. Appropriate enforcement may include imposition of a corrective plan, suspension or termination of Medicaid provider status, and any other action determined appropriate by MDH. By October 1, 2026, MDH must report to specified committees of the General Assembly the steps necessary to ensure that a minimum of 80% of Medicaid payments for personal care services is spent on compensation for PCAs and that PCAs receive an hourly wage of at least \$20 per hour. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

Looking Ahead:

As we approach a busy summer and fall, all 188 members of the Maryland General Assembly and statewide officials will be running for election. This presents a unique opportunity for MaCCRA chapters to actively connect with current legislators and new candidates. We encourage each chapter to invite them to visit your facilities, learn firsthand about MaCCRA’s advocacy priorities, and explore the needs of Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CRCs).

We are glad to participate in your chapter events with your legislators. Building relationships now will contribute to better operations and greater visibility for CCRCs across Maryland. These visits are invaluable for fostering understanding, transparency, and stronger partnerships.

We appreciate the dedication and teamwork of MaCCRA’s Chapters, Executive Committee, and Legislative Working Group. Your ongoing collaboration and outreach make a meaningful difference in MaCCRA’s advocacy efforts.

It has been a pleasure working with State MaCCRA and MaCCRA Chapter leadership and look forward to our continued work together in the coming months.

--- Barbara Brocato and Dan Shattuck

APPENDIX – MaCCRA Tracking List of Legislation 2026

GREEN = Passed into law **RED** = Failed to Pass or Withdrawn

#	Title	Sponsors	Position
CCRC Related			
HB 0424	Continuing Care in a Retirement Community Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership	Kenneth Kerr	Support written and in person and virtual oral testimony
SB 0488	Continuing Care in a Retirement Community Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership (Sue Hecht Continuing Care Retirement Community Transparency Act)	Karen Lewis Young	Support written and in person and virtual oral testimony
SB 0560	Continuing Care Retirement Communities - Refunds	Charles E. Sydnor	Support written
HB 0215	Continuing Care Providers - Financial Stress Tests, Transparency, and Governing Bodies	Joe Vogel	Support concept with Letter
Department of Aging			
HB 0162	Department of Aging - Maryland Access Point - Dementia-Friendly Communities	Pam Queen	Support Registered
HB 0278	Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)		Support with letter offering amendment
SB 0113	Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)		Support with letter offering amendment
HB 0804	Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment	Sarah Wolek	Monitor
SB 0860	Department of Aging – Aging Resilience Fund – Establishment	Craig J. Zucker	Monitor
Caring Across Maryland Legislation			
SB 0240	Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment	Karen Lewis Young	Support with letter
HB 0965	Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment	Teresa Woorman	Support with letter
HB 0624	Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026)	Jennifer White Holland	Support

#	Title	Sponsors	Position
SB 0411	Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026)	Malcolm Augustine	Support
HB 1129	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies - Wages and Leave for Personal Care Aides	Lesley J. Lopez	Support with letter
SB 0663	Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports	Benjamin F. Kramer	Register Support
HB 1414	Nursing Homes - Direct Care Wages and Benefits and Cost Reports	Ashanti Martinez	Register Support
HB 0446	Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Toolkit	Ashanti Martinez	Support with Letter
SB 0555	Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Toolkit	Antonio Hayes	Support with Letter
Nursing Home and Assisted Living			
SB 0123	Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - Membership	Bryan W. Simonaire	Monitor
HB 0747	Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities – Membership	Nicholaus R. Kipke	Monitor
HB 0442	Professional Liability Insurance Coverage - Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Nurse Midwives - Disclosure	Aaron M. Kaufman	Support with letter
SB 0293	Professional Liability Insurance Coverage - Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Nurse Midwives - Disclosure	Carl Jackson	Support with letter
HB 0671	Nursing Facilities - Medicaid Quality Assessment - Funding of Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman	Emily Shetty	Support with Letter
SB 0340	Nursing Facilities - Medicaid Quality Assessment - Funding of Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman	Shelly Hettleman	Support with Letter
HB 1002	Nursing Facilities - Involuntary Discharge or Transfer	Lesley J. Lopez	Register Support
SB 0493	Nursing Facilities - Involuntary Discharge or Transfer	Pamela Beidle	Register Support

#	Title	Sponsors	Position
HB 0931	Health Care Facilities - Nursing Homes - Medical Director Requirements	Terri L. Hill	Register Support
HB 0945	Nursing Homes - Complaints - Notification and Consultation	Sheree Sample-Hughes	Monitor
Tax and Insurance Issues			
HB 0033	Income Tax - Itemized Deductions - Charitable Donations	Mike Griffith	Monitor
HB 0098	Inheritance Tax - Beneficiaries of Limited Means - Installment Payments	Jon S. Cardin	Monitor
HB 0323	Income Tax - Credit for Income Taxes and Penalties Due to Financial Exploitation	Vaughn Stewart	Monitor
SB 0291	Income Tax - Credit for Income Taxes and Penalties Due to Financial Exploitation	Jack Bailey	Monitor
HB 0707	Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Retirement Income	Robin L. Grammer	Register Support
HB 0745	Income Tax - Senior Tax Credit - Refundability	Bernice Mireku-North	Register Support
HB 1437	Income Tax - Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums	Seth A. Howard	Monitor
SB 0973	Income Tax - Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums	Justin Ready	Monitor
SB 0163	Income Tax - Addition Modification for Federal Tax-Exempt Income - Alterations	Chris West	Monitor
HB 0694	Income Tax - Addition Modification for Federal Tax-Exempt Income - Alterations	Harry Bhandari	Monitor
SB 0211	Maryland Estate Tax - Repeal	William G. Folden	Monitor
Other Issues			
HB 0202	Public Health - Social Isolation and Loneliness Pilot Grant Program - Establishment	Joe Vogel	Support with Letter
HB 0696	State Prescription Drug Benefits - Retirees	Robin L. Grammer	Monitor
HB 1008	Fiduciary Institutions - Exploitation of Seniors and Vulnerable Adults - Protections and Required Referral (Vulnerable Adult Banking Protection Act)	Pam Queen	Register Support

#	Title	Sponsors	Position
<u>SB 0753</u>	<u>Fiduciary Institutions - Exploitation of Seniors and Vulnerable Adults - Protections and Required Referral (Vulnerable Adult Banking Protection Act)</u>	Benjamin F. Kram	Register Support
SB 0073	Election Law - Polling Place Procedures - Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)	Arthur Ellis	Support with Letter
HB 1117	<u>Elopement Response Devices - Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program Coverage and Provision Under State Programs</u>	Lesley J. Lopez	Monitor