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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1357**

2 Offered January 19, 2026

3 *A BILL to direct the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to convene a work group for*
4 *the purpose of conducting a comprehensive study of the quality of care, resident safety, and operational*
5 *practices of nursing facilities in the Commonwealth. Report.*

6 Patrons—McQuinn; Senator: Aird

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. § 1. That The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (the Department) shall convene a work**
10 **group to be known as the Nursing Facility Quality and Operations Commission (the Commission) for the**
11 **purpose of conducting a comprehensive study of the quality of care, resident safety, and operational**
12 **practices of nursing facilities in the Commonwealth.**13 The work group shall examine nursing facilities licensed by the Virginia Department of Health and
14 nursing facilities certified to participate in Medicaid or Medicare.15 The work group shall further conduct a statewide study and make recommendations to improve nursing
16 facility quality, safety, transparency, accountability, and resident experience. In conducting the study, the
17 work group shall evaluate, at a minimum: (i) quality and safety outcomes, including trends in preventable
18 harms, avoidable hospitalizations, infection prevention and control, medication management, and
19 management of other adverse events; (ii) staffing levels and stability, including staffing patterns by shift,
20 turnover and vacancy rates, use of agency staffing, training, competency, and supervision, and the
21 relationship between staffing and resident outcomes; (iii) complaint, survey, and enforcement systems,
22 including the timeliness and effectiveness of inspections, complaint response, corrective action plans,
23 sanctions, and repeat deficiencies; (iv) resident rights and protections, including admissions and discharge
24 practices, involuntary transfers and discharges, grievance procedures, family communication, and access to
25 ombudsman services; (v) care coordination and transitions, including coordination with hospitals and
26 community providers and discharge planning practices; (vi) ownership and operational models, including
27 ownership structures, related-party transactions, management agreements, real estate arrangements, and
28 transparency of controlling interests, and how such practices affect staffing and quality; (vii) financial and
29 payment policy, including Medicaid reimbursement structure, the extent to which payments support direct
30 care, and opportunities to align payment with quality outcomes; (viii) emergency preparedness and
31 continuity of operations, including outbreak response, staffing surge capacity, and readiness for severe
32 weather and power disruptions; (ix) data reporting and transparency, including public access to facility
33 performance information and the availability of understandable information for residents and families; and
34 (x) disparities in quality and access, including differences across regions and resident populations.35 The work group shall include representatives from relevant stakeholders, including nursing home
36 residents and their families, nursing home administrators, advocacy organizations, health care professionals,
37 regulatory bodies responsible for regulating nursing homes, and any other relevant individual or entity as
38 selected by the Department.39 The Department shall submit the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House
40 Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services
41 by November 1, 2026.

INTRODUCED

HB1357