

HOUSE BILL NO. 1357

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate McQuinn)

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

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. § 1. That The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (the Department) shall convene a work group to be known as the Nursing Facility Quality and Operations Commission (the Commission) for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive study of the quality of care, resident safety, and operational practices of nursing facilities in the Commonwealth.**

*The work group shall examine nursing facilities licensed by the Virginia Department of Health and nursing facilities certified to participate in Medicaid or Medicare.*

16        *The work group shall further conduct a statewide study and make recommendations to improve nursing*  
17        *facility quality, safety, transparency, accountability, and resident experience. In conducting the study, the*  
18        *work group shall evaluate, at a minimum: (i) quality and safety outcomes, including trends in preventable*  
19        *harms, avoidable hospitalizations, infection prevention and control, medication management, and*  
20        *management of other adverse events; (ii) staffing levels and stability, including staffing patterns by shift,*  
21        *turnover and vacancy rates, use of agency staffing, training, competency, and supervision, and the*  
22        *relationship between staffing and resident outcomes; (iii) complaint, survey, and enforcement systems,*  
23        *including the timeliness and effectiveness of inspections, complaint response, corrective action plans,*  
24        *sanctions, and repeat deficiencies; (iv) resident rights and protections, including admissions and discharge*  
25        *practices, involuntary transfers and discharges, grievance procedures, family communication, and access to*  
26        *ombudsman services; (v) care coordination and transitions, including coordination with hospitals and*  
27        *community providers and discharge planning practices; (vi) ownership and operational models, including*  
28        *ownership structures, related-party transactions, management agreements, real estate arrangements, and*  
29        *transparency of controlling interests, and how such practices affect staffing and quality; (vii) financial and*  
30        *payment policy, including Medicaid reimbursement structure, the extent to which payments support direct*  
31        *care, and opportunities to align payment with quality outcomes; (viii) emergency preparedness and*  
32        *continuity of operations, including outbreak response, staffing surge capacity, and readiness for severe*

33     *weather and power disruptions; (ix) data reporting and transparency, including public access to facility*  
34     *performance information and the availability of understandable information for residents and families; and*  
35     *(x) disparities in quality and access, including differences across regions and resident populations.*

36     *The work group shall include representatives from relevant stakeholders, including nursing home*  
37     *residents and their families, nursing home administrators, advocacy organizations, health care professionals,*  
38     *regulatory bodies responsible for regulating nursing homes, and any other relevant individual or entity as*  
39     *selected by the Department.*

40     *The Department shall submit the work group's findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Chairs*  
41     *of the House Committees on Appropriations and Health and Human Services and the Senate Committees on*  
42     *Finance and Appropriations and Rehabilitation and Social Services, and the Joint Subcommittee for Health*  
43     *and Human Resources Oversight by September 15, 2027.*