



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269  
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmd  
facebook.com/aarpmd

**SB 28 Home and Community–Based Services Waiver – Participation and Applications**  
**House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**FAVORABLE**  
**March 30, 2022**

Good Afternoon Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I am Jim Campbell; I am the state president for AARP MD. AARP MD represents more than 850,000 members in Maryland and overwhelming our members want to age in place and support **SB 28 Home– and Community–Based Services Waiver – Participation and Applications**.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that advocates for issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment, income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

SB 28 requires the Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver (Community Options Waiver) to include a cap on participation and a plan for waiver participation of at least 7,500 individuals. If the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) maintains a waiting list/registry for the waiver, each month MDH must send a waiver application to at least 600 individuals on the waiting list/registry (or all individuals if there are less than 600). A waiver application must state clearly and conspicuously that the applicant (1) must submit the application within six weeks of receipt and (2) has to meet all eligibility criteria for waiver participation within six months of application submission.

AARP believes that state governments should carefully assess their Long-Term Services and Support Systems (LTSS) and their ability to serve people in the most integrated setting the individual chooses.

AARP also believes that the State should:

- apply the principle that consumer choice and quality of life should drive the entire LTSS system;
- allocate a greater proportion of Medicaid funding for HCBS instead of nursing facility care;
- provide potential consumers with viable options for HCBS that will help divert people from nursing facility care either before admission or shortly thereafter; and
- Restructure their nursing facility Medicaid reimbursement system to ensure that it does not sustain excess capacity.

AARP believes Marylanders should be able to “age-in-place” in the settings of their choice and be provided services to avoid an unnecessary nursing home admission. That is NOT Happening in Maryland. The government continues to pay Medicaid bills for our elders in the most expensive setting, when people just want help to stay in their own homes or in a setting of their choice. It is time for the Maryland legislature to act to make up for lost time if it wants to give Marylanders the ability to age in place.

We ask the Committee for a favorable report on SB 28. For questions please contact Tammy Bresnahan at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.