



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Senate Bill 212
Title:	Department of Aging - Aging Services - Program Repeal and Consolidation
Hearing Date:	January 21, 2025
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 212 - Department of Aging - Aging Services - Program Repeal and Consolidation. This bill repeals provisions of law requiring the Secretary of Aging to develop certain congregate housing and assisted living programs for seniors; repeals the Interagency Committee on Aging Services and transfers certain responsibilities of the Committee to the Department of Aging; authorizes the Department to enter into agreements and contracts, adopt regulations, and adopt policies and procedures to implement and coordinate services to older adults.

Occupational therapy practitioners play a valuable role in the area of aging in place by addressing risk factors that threaten independence and promoting successful aging for older adults. This is done through thorough assessment and treatment planning to help seniors maintain independence in daily activities, such as dressing, bathing, cooking, and home management, with interventions often focused on improving safety, cognitive function, and overall quality of life. Occupational therapy practitioners work to address challenges related to aging, such as decreased mobility, memory issues, and pain management, through training, adaptive equipment recommendations, home modifications, and caregiver education. MOTA supports the Department of Aging in its reorganization efforts to better assist older adults and the Department's efforts to update outdated terminology.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.