



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

**SB 212 Department of Aging - Aging Services - Program Repeal and Consolidation
Cross Over Hearing
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Thursday, March 20, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our more than two million members aged 50 and older, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on **SB 212 Department of Aging – Aging Services – Program Repeal and Consolidation** as amended by the Senate.

This departmental bill repeals the requirement that the Secretary of Aging develop congregate housing services and assisted living programs for seniors. Instead, it mandates that the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) develop, coordinate, and administer a consolidated program to provide specified services. The bill also repeals the Interagency Committee on Aging Services, transferring its responsibilities to MDOA while clarifying and expanding those duties.

AARP successfully advocated for an amendment requiring MDOA to engage with key stakeholders in program transition planning and co-design the new consolidated program. Additionally, the amendment ensures the development of transition plans for individuals currently receiving services.

The bill updates terminology by replacing references to “seniors” with “older adults” in specified sections of the Human Services Article. It also clarifies that an “area agency” refers specifically to an “area agency on aging.” Furthermore, the bill must be applied prospectively and may not be interpreted to affect any cause of action arising before its effective date.

The bill is set to take effect on July 1, 2026, with provisions related to transition planning taking effect earlier, on June 1, 2025.

We respectfully request a favorable report on SB 212. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

