



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)
To the Senate Finance Committee
Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle
January 26, 2026

Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act): SB0113

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Committee,

The Maryland Rural Health Association strongly supports SB0113, the Longevity Ready Maryland Act. This bill will ensure Maryland proactively plans for and responds to the needs of our growing older adult population by requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, supporting coordinated, multisector policy and service delivery. It also increases accountability through reporting requirements and ensures the Commission on Aging is properly staffed to guide implementation effectively.

Evidence shows that integrated, coordinated care approaches — which align health, social, and community services — can improve outcomes for older adults. Integrated care models have been linked with enhanced health and functional outcomes, demonstrating the value of multisector collaboration in aging policy and practice (Leijten et al., 2026).

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB0113.

With appreciation,
The Maryland Rural Health Association

Leijten, F., Apaïke, J., Tøge, A. G., et al. (2026). *Implementing integrated care for older adults in primary health care: A systematic scoping review*. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 176, 105342. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2026.105342>