



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 17, 2026

Bill Number: **SB860**

Bill Title: Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to submit this favorable with amendments testimony for Senate Bill (SB) 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit on Aging, administering federal and state funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides supportive services to older adults, and planning for Maryland's growing older adult population. HB 804 would establish the new Aging Resilience Fund, a special nonlapsing fund at the Department of Aging. This new non-lapsing fund will give MDOA more flexibility in the future to receive and leverage philanthropic funding and other sources of private funding. Creating this new Fund to receive and spend funds in alignment with the Department's work going forward, beyond the major defined program areas, is sorely needed. The bill proposes important guardrails; future MDOA spending of this fund must be aligned with its mission and the work of the Department.

It is well-established that there is a strong return on investment on investing in healthy aging and that the older adult population in America is growing, particularly in Maryland. Federal and state funding supporting older people has not kept pace with steady population growth. An effective Aging Resilience Fund that ideally grows over time with outside investments will allow more older Marylanders to stay in the homes and communities they thrive in. This bill would deliver a significant, creative state achievement directly focused on



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improving the lives of older Marylanders during a constrained budget climate by establishing this critical funding infrastructure.

This bill is in direct alignment with MDOA's Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan¹, which will provide the roadmap for MDOA to work in partnership with the General Assembly over the next 10+ years to make Maryland more prepared for our increasingly longer lives. Sustained partnerships with philanthropy are an identified priority in the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, as well as pursuing funding from other public and private sources. MDOA can absorb all work associated with this new fund with existing resources only.

MDOA requests conforming amendments to SB 860 to match the House version of the bill, HB 804, which passed out of the Health Committee favorably as amended on Friday, February 6th. The amendments add additional protective language around the Aging Resilience Fund, so that funds may not be diverted, and new reporting requirements around funds received and spent out from the Aging Resilience Fund in the future. MDOA has shared the adopted House amendments with the sponsor and Finance Committee counsel and has included them with this testimony for reference.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a **favorable with amendments** report for SB 860. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

¹ MD Department of Aging website, "Longevity Ready Maryland," *available at*: <https://lrm.maryland.gov/>

BY: Health Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 804

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**Delegate Wolek**” and substitute “**Delegates Wolek, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Lopez, Martinez, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 9, after “**(6)**” insert “**(I)**”; in lines 10, 11, and 12, strike “**(I)**”, “**(II)**”, and “**(III)**”, respectively, and substitute “**1.**”, “**2.**”, and “**3.**”, respectively; after line 13, insert:

“(II) MONEY RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FROM THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED IN THE ANNUAL STATE OPERATING OR CAPITAL BUDGET BILL FOR PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.”;

in line 14, strike “**ADMINISTRATIVE**”; strike line 16 in its entirety; in lines 17 and 18, strike “**(II)**” and “**(III)**”, respectively, and substitute “**(I)**” and “**(II)**”, respectively; and after line 25, insert:

“(10) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF § 7-213 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT REDUCE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE FUND IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION, MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE FUND SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND.

(11) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, THE SECRETARY SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND FOR THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING:

(I) THE TOTAL AMOUNT IN THE FUND;

(II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEPOSITS MADE TO THE FUND, INCLUDING AMOUNTS AND SOURCES; AND

(III) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPENDITURES MADE FROM THE FUND, INCLUDING AMOUNTS AND PURPOSES.”.