

LeadingAge Maryland - 2026 - SB 113 - Longevity Re

Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield

Position: FAV



PO Box 34
Sykesville, MD 21784

TO: Senate Finance Committee
FROM: LeadingAge Maryland
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 113, Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)
DATE: January 28, 2026
POSITION: Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 113, Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act).

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 150 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Members of LeadingAge Maryland provide health care, housing, and services to more than 20,000 older persons each year. Our mission is to be the trusted voice for aging in Maryland, and our vision is that Maryland is a state where older adults have access to the services they need, when they need them, in the place they call home.

Senate Bill 113 establishes a comprehensive framework to prepare Maryland for its growing older adult population by requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, a statewide, multisector strategy focused on economic opportunity, financial security, health, wellness, mobility, and coordinated aging services. The bill strengthens the Department of Aging's role in assessing needs, aligning and evaluating programs, and advocating for systemic policy change, while creating a 13-member Commission on Aging to advise on implementation and legislative priorities; the measure takes effect October 1, 2026, with the goal of modernizing Maryland's aging services system and improving quality of life for older residents.

Maryland is facing significant demographic change: as of 2025, more than 1.4 million residents are age 60 and older, and by 2030 one in four Marylanders will be 60 or older¹. This shift creates both opportunities and challenges in housing, health, economic security, caregiving, and community engagement, and it demands coordinated, long-term action.

¹ Longevity Ready Maryland

SB 113 builds on this data-driven 10-year roadmap² to ensure older adults age with dignity, purpose, independence, and financial stability by mandating leadership from the Secretary of Aging to coordinate cross-agency efforts and advocate for policy reform. The bill promotes integration of services, streamlines access to supports, and prioritizes affordable, accessible housing and home- and community-based care that helps older Marylanders remain in their communities as they age. It also establishes a diverse, expert Commission on Aging to advise on implementation and outcomes, ensuring stakeholder voices guide progress.

Codifying this plan signals Maryland's commitment to ensuring older residents are valued participants in our economy and communities. SB 113 aligns with LeadingAge Maryland's mission to support policies that enhance aging services, strengthen care systems, and expand opportunities for older adults to age in place with dignity and choice. We urge a favorable report on SB 113 to help all Marylanders thrive across the lifespan.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 113.

² Senate Bill 113 builds on the existing data-driven 10-year roadmap outlined in Governor Moore's Executive Order, which created the Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative in 2024

SB0113_QualequityAccess_FAV

Uploaded by: Alita-Geri Carter

Position: FAV



Tc4health@gmail.com
www.qualequityaccess.com

January 26, 2026

RE: SB 0113 – Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am also the mother of two disabled children, a former unit-based director and assistant director of skilled nursing and long-term care facilities. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 0113 (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**. As a resident of Columbia with a deep interest in healthcare quality improvement, I recognize that the demographic shifts currently facing Maryland require the proactive, multisector approach outlined in this legislation.

The Case for Longevity Readiness

Maryland is at a demographic crossroads. Recent data underscores the urgency of codifying the Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) plan:

- **Rapid Demographic Shift:** As of 2020, Marylanders aged 60 and older comprised **22.62%** of our population. Projections indicate that by 2030, nearly one in every four adults in Maryland will be 60 or older and by 2040, nearly **26.57% of Marylanders** will be over the age of 60.
- **The 2030 Milestone:** By 2030, Marylanders over 60 are expected to outnumber those under.
- **Economic Impact of Caregiving:** Maryland relies on approximately **760,000 unpaid family caregivers**, whose contributions are valued at an estimated **\$12.5 billion** annually. SB 0113's focus on supporting this workforce is critical for our state's economic stability.
- **Regional Urgency:** In jurisdictions like Worcester and Talbot counties, the median age has already surpassed 50.

Why SB 0113 is Essential

This bill does more than just update terminology; it transforms the Department of Aging from a service provider into a leader of a statewide ecosystem.



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1. **Multisector Coordination:** By requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead the implementation of the LRM Plan, SB 0113 ensures that housing, transportation, and healthcare sectors work in concert rather than in silos.
2. **Infrastructure for Aging-in-Place:** With the majority of older Marylanders preferring to stay in their homes, the bill's support for the "No Wrong Door" access model and the expansion of wraparound community services is a fiscal and social necessity.
3. **Future-Proofing Policies:** The transition of the workforce where the 55–64 age group is rapidly aging out demands the age-inclusive workplace policies and "upskilling" pathways championed by this Act.

Conclusion

SB 0113 provides the statutory framework necessary to ensure that longevity is treated as an opportunity for growth rather than a crisis of care. By investing in infrastructure today, we protect the quality of life for the current aging population and future generations of Maryland residents.

I respectfully urge a **favorable report** on SB 0113.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alita-Geri Carter, MSN, DNP-C, CPNP-PC, BCPA

Resident, Howard County, MD



Tc4health@gmail.com
www.qualequityaccess.com

References

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<https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/ltss/family-caregiving/valuing-the-invaluable-2023-update/>

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<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MD>

SB0113_MHAMD_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Ann Geddes

Position: FAV

**Senate Bill 113 – Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**

Senate Finance Committee

January 28, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 113.

Throughout much of 2024 and 2025, the Department of Aging, along with scores of stakeholders, worked to craft a robust multi-sector plan for aging, as was directed in Governor Moore’s Executive Order of January 2024. This plan, Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM), was the result of a highly collaborative effort between the Department and multiple interested parties, to ensure that Maryland is prepared to meet the needs of a growing older adult population with multi-sector action.

Specifically, regarding the behavioral health needs of older adults, LRM proposes several key measures. Goals are to:

- Enhance social connections among older adults to promote well-being and reduce depression
- Improve hospital discharge policies for at-risk adults
- Improve access to services for people with disabilities
- Take a holistic approach to care and address a person’s physical, behavioral, and cognitive health
- Expand access to community-based behavioral health services that address long-term care needs

It is critical that the extensive and promising work done thus far is preserved and continues to move forward. SB 113 will accomplish this by putting LRM into statute, tasking the Secretary of the Department of Aging with implementation of LRM, and ensuring that progress continues by requiring annual reports to the legislature.

For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 113 and urges a favorable report.

For more information, please contact Ann Geddes at (443) 926-3396

MaCCRA 2026 Testimony - Support - Senate Bill 113

Uploaded by: Bruce Hartung

Position: FAV



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
DATE: January 28, 2026
POSITION: **Favorable**

The Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA) is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 20,000 older adults living in 38 licensed CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights, well-being, and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of the MaCCRA, we support Senate Bill 113.

As it is defined in the bill (E) “LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN” MEANS A MULTISECTOR PLAN ON AGING THAT: (1) TRANSFORMS PROGRAMS, SERVICES, POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS THE GROWING POPULATION OF OLDER ADULTS; AND (2) INCORPORATES STREAMLINED, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO AGING SERVICES.

MaCCRA supports the effort to transform Maryland and ensure the state is well equipped to help seniors live and thrive during these years of our lives. As part of the Department of Aging’s work towards implementation of Longevity Ready Maryland, the bill also expands the role and membership of the Commission on Aging. We appreciate the inclusion on page 6 beginning with line 26 “THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE THAT ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS AND CAREGIVERS;”.

We would ask that MaCCRA be specified for one of those seats. We are a leading voice on behalf of the residents who live in continuing care retirement communities in Maryland. Our hope as an organization is to promote the livelihood and well being of seniors who choose to call Maryland home and do so in one of the many CCRCs in the State.

With this understanding, we ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 113.

For further information please contact: Bruce Hartung, President
Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association c/o brucehartung@sbcglobal.net

SB0113_FAV_LifeSpan, MD-MADS_Human Serv. - Dept. o

Uploaded by: Danna Kauffman

Position: FAV



Managed By LifeSpan

Senate Finance Committee

January 28, 2026

Senate Bill 113 – *Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)*

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network and the Maryland Association for Medical Adult Day Services (MD-MADS), we **support** Senate Bill 113: Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act). Among other technical changes, this bill codifies the “Longevity Ready Maryland Plan,” charging the Secretary with overseeing its implementation and goals. The bill also amends the membership of the Commission on Aging to specify more precise skill sets for members and modifies the Commission's duties.

Senate Bill 113 and the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan recognize Maryland’s rapidly growing older population and the wide-ranging impacts of longer lives on health care, housing, the workforce, and community services. The Plan takes a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to improve aging in place, support caregivers, and strengthen economic security and health outcomes across its lifespan, while prioritizing equity to ensure that all Maryland residents age with dignity and access essential support services.

LifeSpan and MD-MADS respectfully request a favorable vote.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman

Christine K. Krone

410-244-7000

MD Catholic Conference_SB 113_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

January 28, 2026

SB 113

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

Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 113. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 113, the Longevity Ready Maryland Act, seeks to codify the "Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Plan," a comprehensive, multisector initiative designed to address the needs of Maryland's growing older adult population. By focusing on building a longevity ecosystem, promoting economic opportunity, and optimizing health and wellness, this legislation ensures that our state is prepared to support its residents as they age with dignity and purpose.

The Conference supports this bill as a means toward supporting the dignity of human persons, especially as they age. Older persons are often marginalized in a "throwaway culture." As Pope Francis reminds us in *Fratelli Tutti*, "by isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and a wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own." This legislation honors that closeness by creating a framework that supports both older adults and their caregivers.

The Longevity Ready Maryland Plan would help ensure that aging is not seen as a burden but as a vital stage of life that contributes to the common good. Moreover, the expansion of the Commission on Aging ensures that the implementation of this plan remains grounded in the real-world needs of Marylanders. This collaborative approach reflects the spirit of solidarity, where all sectors of society work together to ensure that no one is marginalized as they age.

For these reasons, the Conference respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 113.

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Uploaded by: Jonathan Dayton

Position: FAV



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>

Longevity Ready_1199SEIU_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Loraine Arikat

Position: FAV



Testimony on **SB113**

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

Position: FAV

To Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director for 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East in Maryland and Washington, DC. 1199 is the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in our region. Our union supports SB113 and urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report.

Longevity Ready Maryland takes a comprehensive approach to improving elder care infrastructure. As an organization that represents caregivers serving older adults, 1199SEIU supports codifying Longevity Ready Maryland. If this legislation passes, our state will have a foundation to build on Longevity Ready's [recommendations](#) regarding cross-sector coordination, justice, equity, and inclusion, caregiving supports, employment for all, affordable housing, financial stability, services and benefits, and access to equitable systems of care.

Please vote YES on this legislation. Thank you.

In Unity,

Ricarra Jones
Political Director
1199SEIU UHW E

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SB 113 - FAV - ALZ Association.pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Peters

Position: FAV



Bill: SB 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)

Committee: Finance

Position: Favorable

Date: January 28, 2026

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association supports SB 113. As Maryland's aging population grows, SB 113 represents an investment in the state's aging policy framework to ensure older adults, including those living with dementia and the caregivers who support them, can age with the support and resources they need.

Specifically, SB 113 will require the Maryland Department of Aging to lead and implement the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, the state's multisector plan on aging. It also updates the duties of both the Secretary of Aging and the Commission on Aging to support this work.

Every day, the Alzheimer's Association works with families across Maryland who struggle to navigate complex care systems, manage overwhelming caregiving responsibilities, and cope with the emotional and financial burdens of dementia. A multisector longevity approach is essential because it ensures that the many systems people living with dementia and their caregivers rely on—health care, housing, transportation, social services, and community supports—work together rather than in isolation. By aligning agencies and policies around shared goals, the State can strengthen early identification and intervention and better support our aging population.

The Alzheimer's Association supports the sponsor's amendments, as well as the amendments from the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging to incorporate strategies and elements from relevant local plans and other local aging plans. Grounding the statewide plan in the experience and priorities of local aging agencies ensures that implementation reflects community-level needs, strengthens coordination across jurisdictions, and leverages the deep expertise of the organizations that work closely with older adults.

SB 113 emphasizes multisector collaboration, data-driven planning, and ongoing evaluation to ensure that the needs of older adults, including those living with dementia, are met. For these reasons, the Alzheimer's Association urges a favorable report on SB 113. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.

SB0113-FIN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0113/HB0278

January 28, 2026

TO: Members of the Finance Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 113 – Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 113.

This departmental bill from the Maryland Department of Aging requires the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the “Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Plan” – a multisector plan that, per the bill, “transforms programs, services, policies, institutions, and systems to address the growing population of older adults and incorporates streamlined, innovative approaches to aging services.” Among other things, the bill also requires the Secretary to maintain a system that provides information, referrals, and counseling for older adults and their caregivers, and to report certain information pertaining to the Plan to the General Assembly.

This bill will codify into law the responsibility of the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging to administer the programs and activities that the federal government delegates to states under the Older Americans Act of 1965 that are not otherwise committed by law to another unit of State government and to align those activities with the LRM framework. That framework includes four goals: building a longevity ecosystem, promoting economic opportunity, preparing state residents to afford longevity and optimizing health, wellness, and mobility.

This bill defines and broadens the authority of the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging to make recommendations, provide consultation and technical assistance to a significantly broader array of systems, organizations, entities and individuals, thereby maximizing the impact of LRM and the operations of Maryland's network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). This new authority better positions the Maryland Department of Aging to navigate the anticipated service and system gaps through the implementation of the initial LRM Plan, annual updates, four and year revisions and reconfiguring and staffing the Commission on Aging. Additionally, removing the requirement that seven members of the commission be at least 55 years old reflects a practicable approach that allows the commission membership to reflect the life course and allow invested and purpose driven advocates and leaders at various stages of life to participate in this body.

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) serves as the City's AAA and works in close collaboration with the Maryland Department of Aging. The Baltimore City Administration strongly supports this bill, as it will strengthen the Maryland Department of Aging's ability to coordinate across sectors and counties to build out a 21st century model to achieve the best outcomes for older adults. For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 113.

Testimony in support of SB0113 - The Longevity Rea

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

01/28/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0113- POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0113, **Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**

The Longevity Ready Maryland Act is a ten-year plan to Create a Resilient Infrastructure for a Growing Population of Older Adults in Maryland.

Maryland is at a demographic crossroads. Longer lives and declining birth rates have introduced a significant shift in how our current systems will need to function as the growing number of older adults continues to expand. With both challenges and opportunities to prepare for, LRM is taking Maryland beyond traditional approaches to aging services to better address the multifaceted priorities that 21st-century communities are facing through a whole-of-government approach built on four [Epic Goals](#).¹

This bill will assist in these efforts by requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan which is a multisector plan on aging that transforms programs, services, policies, institutions, and systems to address the growing population of older adults in the State; repealing, adding, and altering certain duties of the Secretary to enable the implementation, reporting, and evolution of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan; and requiring the Department of Aging to staff the Commission on Aging.

As a senior citizen living in Frederick County, Maryland I am part of a rapidly growing segment of our county. From a count of 47,408 age 60 or older in 2015 the count was 73,179 in 2025 and is projected to be 82,165 in 2030. This represents a 72.22% growth in age 60 or older between 2015 and 2030.² The need to provide services for our age group is apparent and critical. This bill will make that progress under the LRM plan more certain and move us forward.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0113.

¹ <https://lrm.maryland.gov/>

² <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/1027/Marylands-60-Population-Projections-by-J>

SB 113 LRMA of 2026 - Statement 012626.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Doyle

Position: FAV



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
MARYLAND FEDERATION

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VICE PRESIDENT REGION II

**Statement of the Maryland Federation of
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Senate Finance Committee Hearing, January 28, 2026
On SB 113 – Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on
Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**

(Position – FAV)

To: Chair Pamela Beidle
Senate Finance Committee

From: Robert Doyle, Chair
State Legislative Committee
NARFE – Maryland Federation

I am pleased to provide our written statement today on behalf of the State Legislative Committee of the National and Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Maryland Federation, representing approximately 317,000 federal annuitants and employees in Maryland. For the continuing benefit of our members and all Maryland seniors, we support and ask you for a favorable report on SB 113 - Human Services – Department of Aging and Committee on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act).

We understand that SB 113 will codify into state law the provisions of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan (LRMP), which is a comprehensive ten-year plan for aging designed to enhance

the quality of life for older Marylanders. Maryland will integrate the LRMP with its Federally-mandated four year State Plan on Aging required under the Older Americans Act.

As noted in the January 2026 LRMP Annual Report, codifying the LRMP into a state statute will “establish the framework as the permanent, foundational work of the MD Department of Aging and the MD Commission on Aging....and ensures our aging population benefits from a multisector, coordinated system of resources and services for generations to come.”¹

We believe that the beneficial goals of the LRMP become even more important as we face likely significant cuts to Federal programs affecting the security of Maryland’s growing population of seniors, such as energy assistance programs, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP. We endorse fully Governor Moore’s comments in July 2025 at the launch of the LRMP when he noted “While some in Washington threaten to pull the rug out from under our residents, placing greater strain on state resources, Maryland is stepping forward with urgency and a clear plan to put the well-being of older Marylanders front and center. By coordinating action across state agencies, community organizations, and the private sector, Longevity Ready Maryland takes a resilient approach to aging and makes efficient use of every resource as federal support becomes less certain.”²

We have testified many times over the years regarding many proposed bills that would improve conditions for senior Marylanders to encourage them to remain in Maryland and age in place here. We want to make sure that older Marylanders are recognized for their contributions to the state’s economy as volunteers, caregivers, consumers and workers. We endorse the LRMP as a means to keep seniors here, and we believe that codifying the LRMP into state law through SB 113 will ensure that the foundations of the LRMP will be implemented fully by the MD Department of Aging and the MD Commission on Aging.

We respectfully ask that you give a Favorable report to SB 113. Thank you for this opportunity to offer our comments on this important bill.

Robert M. Doyle, Chair
State Legislative Committee
NARFE – MD Federation
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H (410) 798-0079
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¹ Paving the way for a Longevity Ready Maryland – Annual Report:2026, MD Department of Aging

² <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-launches-longevity-ready-maryland-landmark-state-plan-support-thriving-aging-population.aspx>

2026 Moveable Feast SB 113 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026

Position: Support

Moveable Feast supports *Senate Bill 113 – Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)*. The bill aligns the statutory mission of the Department and Commission with the *Longevity Ready* initiative.

Moveable Feast’s mission is centered on health equity. We provide medically tailored meals to improve the health outcomes of people with serious chronic or life-threatening disease in many regions across Maryland. We support the equity goals of *Longevity Ready Maryland*, including the focus on advancing Food is Medicine initiative as cited as a priority in *Longevity Ready Maryland’s* 2025 annual report.ⁱ

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ https://lrm.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/LRM_2026508c.pdf

SB 113 Human Services - Department of Aging and Co

Uploaded by: Sara Westrick

Position: FAV



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**SB 113 Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)
Senate Finance Committee
January 28, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland. AARP Maryland proudly supports Senate Bill 113, The Longevity Ready Maryland Act.

AARP Maryland welcomed the launch of the Longevity Ready Maryland initiative in January 2024 and served as a key stakeholder in the plan's development. This comprehensive, 10-year multisector plan aligns state, local, nonprofit, and private partners to strengthen aging services across Maryland. The plan also aligns with AARP's mission to empower people to live their best life as they age.

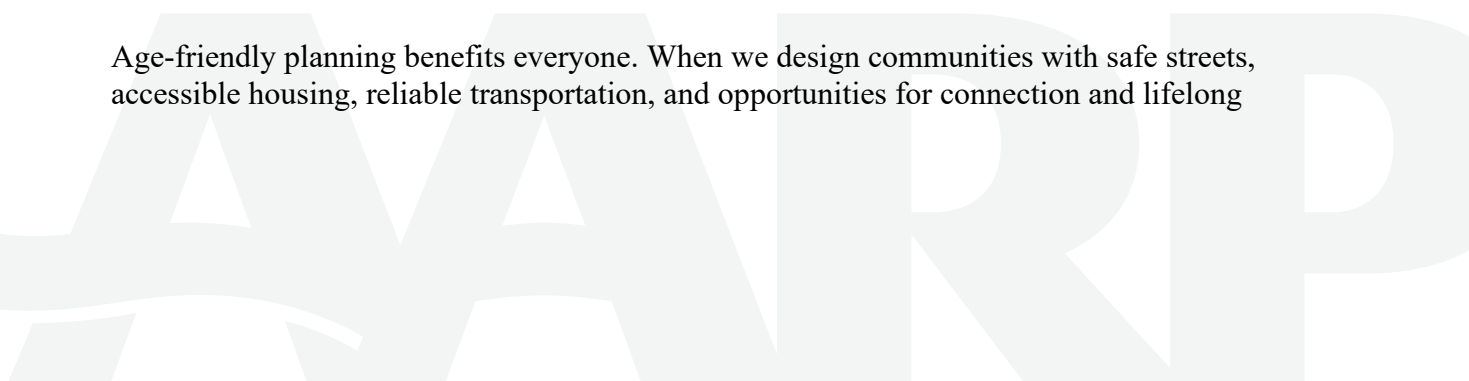
Maryland is entering a pivotal moment, as our population is rapidly aging. We must ensure our systems, services, and communities are prepared to support older adults with dignity, independence, and opportunity. According to recent Census data, the population of Marylanders age 65 and older grew by more than 3 percent in a single year, while the population under 18 declined. This demographic shift is widening and demands coordinated, strategic action.

SB 113 does just that by strengthening the leadership needed to guide this work. It enhances the role of the Secretary of Aging, ensuring Maryland can assess needs, coordinate programs, and educate the public effectively. The bill modernizes and diversifies the Commission on Aging, expanding representation across a range of categories, helping ensure that decisions made by the Commission reflect the lived experiences of all Marylanders.

The bill also builds transparency and accountability through annual reporting to the Governor and the General Assembly, keeping progress visible and ensuring that funds for aging services are used effectively.

Finally, SB 113 requires regular updates to the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan to ensure it stays responsive to changing needs, research, and best practices. As a state, we need this bill so that we can make the implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan a reality.

Age-friendly planning benefits everyone. When we design communities with safe streets, accessible housing, reliable transportation, and opportunities for connection and lifelong



learning, people of *all* ages benefit. This legislation is about more than aging. It is about shaping a Maryland where every person, at every stage of life, can thrive.

AARP Maryland urges a **favorable report** on SB 113 so we can build a stronger, more equitable, and more age-friendly future for all Marylanders.

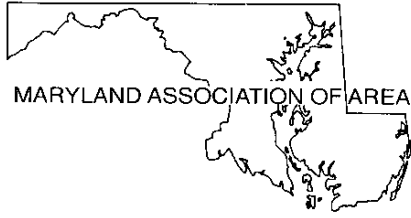
If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

M4A - 2026 SB 113 FWA - Longevity Ready MD - Senat

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FWA

M 4 A



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

*Karen Winkowski
President
Representing Harford County
Office on Aging*

*Erin Bird, Vice President
Representing Cecil County
Department of Community Services*

*Ofelia Ross Ott, Treasurer
Representing Howard County
Office on Aging and Independence*

*Heang Tan, Secretary
Representing Baltimore County
Department of Aging*

Senate Finance Committee

January 28, 2026

**Senate Bill 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
The Longevity Ready Maryland Act**

Favorable with Amendments

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A), we respectfully express our strong support for Senate Bill 113, the Longevity Ready Maryland Act, with the sponsor's amendments, plus an additional amendment. Codifying the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan is a critical step in ensuring Maryland is prepared to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse older adult population through coordinated, forward-looking, and cross-sector strategies. This legislation affirms the State's commitment to transforming systems, policies, and services so that older Marylanders can age with dignity, independence, and opportunity in their communities.

To further strengthen implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, M4A is proposing the incorporation of the following amendment into the bill:

On page 5 after line 10 insert:

(3) TO INCORPORATE STRATEGIES AND ELEMENTS FROM LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING PLANS AND OTHER LOCAL PLANS;

Area Agencies on Aging serve as the backbone of Maryland's aging services network and bring deep, locally-based expertise informed by community needs, local data, and lived experience. Embedding local planning efforts within the state framework will ensure alignment across systems, promote efficiency, and enhance outcomes for older adults and family caregivers throughout Maryland.

With this amendment, M4A urges a favorable report.

Who is M4A?

The nineteen member organizations of Maryland's Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A) serve Maryland's older and disabled citizens, providing a range of cost-effective state, federal and locally funded programs that help individuals remain secure in the community with dignity, independence, and choice as they age. M4A and its associated Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) represent the "front line" in Maryland's challenge to meet the complex and varied needs of well over one million older adults statewide. M4A's goal is to ensure coordination and communication with all partners on all aspects of senior service planning to enhance opportunity and availability to all eligible citizens.

MDOD_SB0113_FWA_FIN_2026.1.26.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Blackfield

Position: FWA



BILL: SB 113

POSITION: FWA - Favorable with Amendments

COMMITTEE: Finance

DATE: January 26, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Department of Disabilities
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Beidle,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for **SB 113, Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**, including the sponsor amendments. SB 113 charges the Secretary of Aging with overseeing a multisector plan on aging designed to transform programs, services, policies, and systems to address the growing population of older adults in the State.

MDOD has been working alongside the Department of Aging on this initiative since the State was chosen to participate in a learning collaborative organized through the Center for Health Care Strategies in 2023. The learning collaborative provided Maryland with technical assistance and support to establish a framework for the state's first multisector plan. It ensured that the vision and goals were inclusive of all Marylanders and that initiatives would extend to all agencies in government. The framework was well-informed through feedback provided by a multitude of stakeholders and set Maryland up for the comprehensive plan we hope to establish in statute.

We appreciate your support for this important legislation, which recognizes the critical need to create a government that can meet the ever-changing needs of Marylanders as they age. MDOD respectfully requests a **favorable report (with the sponsor amendments) on SB 113**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary, Department of Disabilities

MDOA Written - FWA- LRM Act - SB113 - 1.26.26.docx

Uploaded by: Carmel Roques

Position: FWA



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: January 26, 2026

Bill Number: SB 113

Bill Title: Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging - The Longevity Ready Maryland Act

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this **favorable with amendments** testimony on behalf of the Maryland Department of Aging **for Senate Bill (SB) 113**. This bill represents a pivotal step in strengthening Maryland’s ability to prepare for population change and ensure that all Marylanders can age with dignity, purpose, and opportunity.

The Demographic Imperative - Maryland’s population is aging at a historic pace. Today, more than one in five Marylanders is age 60 or older, a share that is projected to grow to more than one in four by 2030. Older adults contribute billions to the local economy, fill critical roles in the workforce, and serve as leaders in our communities — yet many also face systemic barriers to healthy, secure, connected aging. This demographic shift presents both an opportunity and a challenge.

To prepare us, the **Longevity Ready Maryland Plan** (the “**LRM Plan**”) was developed under authority from an Executive Order in 2024 as a ten-year, multisector roadmap to embed longevity readiness across state policy, planning, and service delivery, as well as out of government systems. MDOA released its first LRM Plan in July 2025.

What Longevity Ready Maryland Is and Why It Matters - The LRM Plan is far more than an aging services plan. It is a **whole-of-government vision** that reorients how Maryland



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

approaches aging across all sectors. It is grounded in evidence, feedback from stakeholders and designed to:

- ***Build a longevity ecosystem*** that connects state agencies, community organizations, healthcare, business, and academic partners to advance coordinated action.
- ***Promote economic opportunity*** through age-inclusive workforce participation and stronger support for caregivers.
- ***Prepare Marylanders to afford longevity*** with strategies for affordable housing, financial planning, and access to essential services.
- ***Optimize health, wellness, and mobility*** with investments in prevention, health equity, social connection, transportation, and community design.

The LRM Plan represents the state’s most comprehensive and strategic response to population aging — and yet as an **executive order-based initiative**, its durability and authority are limited. This approach takes us from a program-specific orientation of the last century, to one of forward-looking vision and advocacy, in partnership with others, on all issues that impact older Marylanders.

Why Codifying LRM Into Law Is Necessary - Codifying the LRM Plan’s principles and structures into statute the standing role of the Department of Aging as its leader.

SB 113, is critical for several reasons, it:

- **Ensures Long-Term Stability and Accountability** - Executive orders can be altered or rescinded. Codification provides stable authority, ensuring that longevity readiness continues regardless of future administrations.
- **Strengthens Cross-Sector Coordination** - By embedding the LRM Plan into MDOA’s work permanently, Maryland will formalize a comprehensive, sustained approach that aligns agencies and stakeholders under shared goals. This enhances the effectiveness of



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Carmel Roques | Secretary

policymakers, service providers, and community partners.

- **Enhances Measurement and Transparency** - Clear statutory directives will cement evaluation frameworks and reporting expectations.
- **Supports Greater Equity** - Law strengthens the framework needed to address disparities in access to care, housing, employment, and community participation across diverse populations statewide.
- **Make Maryland a National Leader in Preparing for Longer Lives** - Maryland would be the 5th state to codify this all-of-government approach, and proposes language that's specifically informed by Maryland stakeholders.

Modernizing the Maryland Commission on Aging - SB 113 proposes expansions to the Maryland Commission on Aging, a statutorily authorized state commission body that currently serves as a statewide advisory leadership group on senior issues and advocates for practical solutions. The Commission was established in 1959 and updated in 1971 and 2015.

Under existing law, the Commission's composition and duties were established to review statewide programs and make recommendations to the Secretary of Aging. SB 113 thoughtfully expands this role to reflect LRM's **multisector mission**, enabling the Commission to:

- better integrate longevity readiness across state policy,
- further leverage lived experience and subject-matter expertise,
- and align its work more directly with cross-sector strategy and accountability.

These enhancements will ensure that the Commission is diverse and representative, empowered, and more explicitly charged with advising the Department on Aging on guiding Maryland through the next several decades of demographic change.

There are no funding mandates within this legislation or the LRM Plan. MDOA is already doing this work with existing resources. MDOA reorganized its structure internally in recent years so



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Carmel Roques | Secretary

that it can continue to lead this work: **SB 113 can be adopted with no cost to the state.** MDOA intends to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, pursue new sources of funding and continue efforts to obtain grant funding opportunities as they become available. The true goal is to align our existing resources as a state with these strategies, especially where we have resources for the same aim at multiple agencies.

MDOA Amendments - We urge your support for the sponsor amendments that are based on feedback from key stakeholders. The amendments:

- commit the Department to its current practice, maintaining a publicly accessible LRM Plan implementation progress tracker on our website;
- increase representation from area agencies on aging on the Commission on Aging;
- add a representative who is a veteran with interest in LRM to the Commission on Aging; and
- add clarifying language drawn from the recent federal final rule under the Older Americans Act.

SB 113 represents more than legislative housekeeping — it is a strategic investment in Maryland’s future. By codifying the **Longevity Ready Maryland** plan and strengthening the **Maryland Commission on Aging**, the General Assembly can ensure that our state leads with innovation, inclusivity, and economic resilience as our population continues to age.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Aging urges a **favorable with amendments report** on **SB 113**. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques
Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

MDOA Amendments to SB 113 / HB 278 – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (Longevity Ready MD Act)

On page 3, after line 15, insert:

(4) coordinate, subject to existing law, assess and evaluate, and educate the public and professionals about all State and local programs and services, both public and private, that related and are important to the well-being of [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS** in the state **THAT ARE DESIGNED TO ASSIST OLDER INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN LEADING INDEPENDENT AND DIGNIFIED LIVES IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.**

On page 6, after line 8, insert:

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE RESOURCE ON ITS WEBSITE SHOWING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.

On page 6, after line 21, insert:

(1) [ONE] THREE DIRECTORS OF AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING;

On page 7, after line 2, insert:

(5) ONE VETERAN WITH A DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN.

SB113 Support Jimmy Anderson Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jimmy Anderson

Position: FWA



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE
GOVERNOR**

**ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR**

**ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY**

**Jimmy Anderson, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Veteran and Military Families
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Senate Bill 113 - Favorable with Amendments
Finance Committee
January 28, 2026**

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

My name is Jimmy Anderson, and I serve as the Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families. I also show up as a post 9/11 veteran that has served for over 16 years in the Air Force and continues that service today in the Air Force Reserve. I am also a proud Montgomery County District 20 resident. I am here today to offer our Department's strong support for SB0113, the Longevity Ready Maryland Act.

The Department of Aging's departmental bill represents a fundamental shift in how Maryland prepares for its future. For my Department, this isn't just an aging policy, it is a promise to our veterans that their final chapters will be written with the same dignity and support they earned in their first chapters of service.

Maryland is home to over 360,000 veterans, and our population is aging. At DVMF, we see this firsthand every day at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, where we provide a continuum of care for hundreds of residents who require skilled nursing and assisted living.

The data from VA's National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics is clear:

41% of Maryland veterans -- nearly 150,000 veterans -- are already age 65 or older.

By 2030, this segment will surge as our Vietnam-era veterans, who make up over 32% of our total population, continue to age.

DVMF looks forward to collaborating with the Department of Aging to integrate the needs of veterans into their multisector Longevity Ready Maryland Plan. Our veterans face unique challenges as they age, including service-connected disabilities and chronic conditions like toxic exposure or PTSD that require a specialized, trauma-informed healthcare infrastructure.

By integrating the needs of veterans into the plan, Maryland will build a more inclusive system. Furthermore, we strongly support updating the Commission on Aging membership to include a designated veteran, ensuring that the "lived experience" of Maryland's 360,000 veterans and their families is present at the highest levels of policy and advocacy.

The Longevity Ready Maryland Act ensures that those who served our country can age with purpose and financial security right here in the state they call home. DVMF stands ready to partner with the Department of Aging to build this longevity ecosystem.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to Maryland's military-connected communities. On behalf of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families, I respectfully ask for a favorable report with amendments on Senate Bill 113.

SB0113_DHS_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Hayes

Position: FWA



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON SB 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act) - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report with sponsor amendments for Senate Bill 113 (SB 113).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. The Social Services Administration implements the Adult Services program affected by SB113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act).

Older adults are the backbone of our society and the center of our families. Governor Moore stated in his 2025 Older Marylanders Month Proclamation, "Older adults make significant economic contributions, both as members of the workforce and as consumers, driving growth and innovation across industries, supporting local businesses, and contributing to the economic vitality of our community." SB113 codifies Maryland's multisector plan on aging, Longevity Ready Maryland, enacted by Governor Moore via [Executive Order 01.01.2024.01, July 30, 2025](#).

This bill will protect the Department of Aging's current all-of-government, multisector approach to its work and prepare our state for more people living longer lives. It enacts short and long-term recommendations in the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan across four key areas:

- **Build a longevity ecosystem** that connects a network of organizations, businesses, government agencies, healthcare providers, researchers, and key stakeholders to work collaboratively with older Marylanders to enhance quality of life.
- **Promote economic opportunity** for all Marylanders through an age-inclusive workforce and multigenerational consumer participation.
- **Prepare Marylanders to afford longevity** through improved access to affordable housing, health care, and retirement planning.
- **Optimize health, wellness, and mobility** that benefits Marylanders of all ages through investments in nutrition, health literacy, outdoor spaces, public health, and transportation infrastructures.

This bill strengthens our ongoing work supporting the independence, safety, and well-being of older adults, and serves as an investment across all systems that enable older Marylanders to thrive.

Per our conversations with the Department of Aging, we have included a copy of their sponsor amendments on the next page.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony with sponsor amendments to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,



Rafael López
Secretary

Sponsor Amendments to SB 113 / HB 278 – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (Longevity Ready MD Act)

On page 3, after line 15, insert:

(4) coordinate, subject to existing law, assess and evaluate, and educate the public and professionals about all State and local programs and services, both public and private, that related and are important to the well-being of **[seniors] OLDER ADULTS** in the state **THAT ARE DESIGNED TO ASSIST OLDER INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN LEADING INDEPENDENT AND DIGNIFIED LIVES IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.**

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On page 7, after line 2, insert:

(5) ONE VETERAN WITH A DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN.

SB113 Longevity Maryland FWA.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Marceline White

Position: FWA



**SB113-Human Services-Department of Aging-Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Maryland Ready Act)
Position: FWA**

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Senate Finance

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund supports the goals and intent of SB113.

In fact, our Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) program has been working since 2019 to return funds to older adults pockets and pocketbooks by screening and assisting with Homeowners and Renters Tax Credits, as well as the Homestead Tax Credit. SOAR staff also provide outreach and training to older adults on consumer scams, elder fraud and exploitation, as well as digital privacy.

In the past six years, our SOAR team has returned more than \$6,700,000 in tax credits to low-income homeowners and tenants. We appreciate the effort to fully implement the Longevity Maryland plan, particularly the goals of promoting economic security and preparing individuals to afford longevity.

However, according to a [2025 FBI report on internet crime](#), there were 147, 127 complaints about elder fraud amounting to nearly \$4.9 billion in losses. And these crimes are increasing year over year. More than 3,000 complaints were filed by older adults in Maryland.

Given these facts, we propose that the composition of the Commission on Aging be amended as follows:

(IV) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE 21 GOVERNOR:

~~FIVE~~ **SIX** EXPERTS ON AGING REPRESENTING THE DISCIPLINES OF HEALTH CARE, TECHNOLOGY, ACADEMIA, INNOVATION, **CONSUMER PROTECTION** AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPY;

We urge the adoption of this amendment to SB113.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org

SB 113 - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Peters

Position: FWA



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

*Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Megan Peters
410-921-9005*

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports, with amendments, SB 113. As Maryland's aging population grows, this legislation represents a vital investment in a modern, coordinated aging framework to ensure that all older Marylanders can age with the resources and support they need in their communities.

SB 113 takes an essential step by requiring the Maryland Department of Aging to lead and implement the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, the state's new multisector plan on aging. The bill also updates and strengthens the duties of both the Secretary of Aging and the Commission on Aging, ensuring that Maryland can build a responsive, forward-looking system that meets the diverse needs of our older population.

Every day, members of our coalition work directly with older adults who struggle to navigate fragmented care systems, secure affordable and accessible housing, find reliable transportation, and access vital health and social services. A multisector longevity approach is critically important because older adults rely on interconnected systems to get the care they need. When these systems operate in silos, older adults experience delays, higher costs, avoidable health crises, and increased caregiver burden. SB 113's coordinated statewide strategy will help Maryland strengthen early identification of needs, streamline access to services, and improve outcomes across the aging continuum.

MSCAN supports the sponsor's amendments **and urges adoption of an additional amendment** to ensure that the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan explicitly incorporates strategies and elements from local Area Agency on Aging Plans and other relevant local plans. Embedding this language in statute strengthens the alignment between state and local efforts, ensures that the statewide plan is grounded in local experience, responsive to regional differences, and positioned to support older adults equitably statewide.

With this amendment, MSCAN urges a favorable report on SB 113.

AMENDMENT:

TO INCORPORATE STRATEGIES AND ELEMENTS FROM LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING PLANS AND OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS.

DVMF SB0113 Support with Amendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FWA



Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

Senate Bill 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)
SUPPORT - Favorable with Amendments

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. Our department proudly supports the Department of Aging's Senate Bill 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act).

DVMF looks forward to collaborating with the Department of Aging to integrate the needs of veterans into their multisector Longevity Ready Maryland Plan. Our veterans face unique challenges as they age, including service-connected disabilities and chronic conditions like toxic exposure or PTSD that require a specialized, trauma-informed healthcare infrastructure. By integrating the needs of veterans into the plan and adding a veteran to the Commission on Aging, Maryland will build a more inclusive system. This addition ensures that the "lived experience" of Maryland's 360,000 veterans and their families is present at the highest levels of policy and advocacy.

The Longevity Ready Maryland Act ensures that those who served our country can age with purpose and financial security right here in the state they call home. DVMF stands ready to partner with the Department of Aging to build this longevity ecosystem. Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report with amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary