

# **LeadingAge Maryland - 2026 - SB 860 - Aging Resili**

Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield

Position: FAV



PO Box 34  
Sykesville, MD 21784

**TO:** Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 860, Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment  
**DATE:** March 11, 2026  
**POSITION:** Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 860, Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund – Establishment.

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.

The Maryland Department of Aging serves as a critical backbone for Maryland’s aging network. It provides leadership, coordination, and oversight for programs that support older adults in remaining independent, healthy, and connected to their communities. From nutrition services and caregiver supports to long-term services coordination and partnership development across state agencies, the Department plays an indispensable role for both older Marylanders and the providers who serve them. For organizations like ours, the Department is not only a regulator or grant administrator—it is a strategic partner in meeting the rapidly growing needs of an aging population.

Senate Bill 860 takes an important step toward ensuring that this mission is sustainably funded. By establishing the Aging Resilience Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund and crediting interest earnings back to the Fund, the legislation provides stability and predictability. This structure helps protect essential aging programs from year-to-year funding volatility and allows the Department to invest in personnel, partnerships, and innovative services that strengthen Maryland’s long-term care and community-based service infrastructure.

Maryland’s older adult population continues to grow, and with that growth comes increased demand for coordinated services, oversight, and strategic planning. If we expect the Department to lead effectively—whether in supporting Area Agencies on Aging, responding to

public health emergencies, strengthening workforce pipelines, or expanding community-based services—we must ensure it has reliable and sustainable funding to do so.

Senate Bill 860 recognizes that aging policy cannot be reactive or episodic; it must be resilient. LeadingAge Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report to ensure that the Maryland Department of Aging has the financial stability necessary to serve older adults today and in the decades ahead.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 860.

# **SB 860 - Aging Resilience Fund - 3-11-26 Senate Fi**

Uploaded by: Carol Lienhard

Position: FAV



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*Alzheimer's  
Association,  
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish  
Council*

*Catholic Charities*

*Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council*

*Church of the Brethren*

*Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community  
Relations Council of  
Greater Washington*

*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  
443-632-9722*

## **Testimony in Support of SB 860 – Department of Aging – Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**

**Finance Committee Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

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.

Good afternoon, my name is Carol Lienhard. I am the retired Director of the Harford County Office on Aging, past President of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging and current Co-Chair of the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network. I am here today in support of SB 860 which would establish a non-lapsing Aging Resilience Fund for the Maryland Department of Aging. This fund would be authorized to receive donations and corporate contributions to be used to support the implementation of mission of the Department. In recognition of today's tight budget climate and in the face of a rapidly growing aging population, it makes sense to establish a fund which will enable the Department of Aging to receive funds from outside sources to start innovative programs and implement services to serve the needs of Maryland's seniors which might not be possible without help from the private sector.

I come to you with positive personal experience with such a revolving fund established for the Harford County Office on Aging. Our fund was established by the Harford County Council to enable the community to make donations to meet the emergency needs of Harford County Seniors. It has grown from an initial \$63.00 to more than \$115,000 through fund-raising efforts, donations from community organizations and United Way contributions from county employees. Over the past 25 years, we have been able to meet the emergency needs of hundreds of seniors identified by our outreach staff when there was nowhere else to turn.

At the State level, such a non-lapsing fund could provide a repository for outside donations from both individuals and businesses to further the mission of the Maryland Department of Aging as it works to meet the needs of Maryland's seniors, their families and caregivers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 860 to establish the Aging Resilience Fund for the Maryland Department of Aging. We look forward to a favorable report.

**SB 860 - FIN-MDH- LOS .docx (2).pdf**

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

March 11, 2026

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

**Re: Senate Bill 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund Establishment - Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment. SB 860 would establish a new Aging Resilience Fund, a special nonlapsing fund at the Department of Aging, which will give the Department of Aging more flexibility in the future to receive and leverage philanthropic funding and other sources of private funding. The bill also proposes important guardrails so that any spending from the fund must be aligned with the Department of Aging's mission and work.

As Maryland's older adult population grows, it is important to invest in healthy aging programs and supports. Federal and state funding supporting older people has not kept pace with steady population growth. An Aging Resilience Fund at the Department of Aging, that ideally grows over time with outside investments, will allow more older Marylanders to stay in their homes and communities. SB 860 offers a creative path forward during a constrained budget climate by establishing this critical funding infrastructure. Further, this bill complements multiple initiatives at the Department that support older Marylanders in the places and communities with which they live.

Additionally, this bill directly aligns with the Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan, which will provide the roadmap for the Department of Aging to work in partnership with the General Assembly over the next ten years to make Maryland more prepared for increasingly longer lives. Sustained partnerships with philanthropy is a priority identified in the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, as well as pursuing funding from other public and private sources. The Department supports our colleagues at the Department of Aging in support of their successful execution of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, and we respectfully request a favorable response for SB 860.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at [meghan.lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:meghan.lynch@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.  
Secretary of Health

# **Testimony in support of SB0860 - Aging Resilience**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0860\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

03/11/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON SB#0860 POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**

**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#0860, **Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**

This bill will create for Maryland an Aging Resilience Fund whose purpose of will be to support the implementation of the department’s mission under this title. It will specify its maintenance and the sources of the funds deposited into it as well as who controls funding and disbursements.

An Aging Resilience Fund is a dedicated financial resource, often a government-managed, non-lapsing fund—designed to support programs, services, and infrastructure that help older adults live independently, securely, and with dignity. These funds often support administrative costs, partnership development, and initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of aging populations.<sup>1</sup>

The bill will establish the Aging Resilience Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring the Fund to be used to carry out the mission of the Department of Aging including personnel, partnership development, and any programs, services, or activities within the Department; and requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund.

As a senior citizen who lives in a senior living community, I know these funds will assist me and my neighbors to age in place and have resources available to support that goal.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0860.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search “what is an aging resilience fund”

# **SB 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience F**

Uploaded by: Sara Westrick

Position: FAV



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**SB 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**March 11, 2026**  
**FAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 860. My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, which represents more than 850,000 members across the state, making it one of the largest membership-based organizations advocating for older Marylanders. We thank Senators Zucker, Augustine, Benson, Carozza, Gile, Kramer, and Love for sponsoring this legislation.

SB 860 establishes a new special fund within the Maryland Department of Aging, the Aging Resilience Fund. The goal is to support the Department's mission and strengthen programs and services for older adults across the state.

Maryland's population is aging faster than many of the systems designed to support it. By 2030, one in four Marylanders will be 60-plus, placing new pressure on health care, housing, caregiving, transportation, and long-term services. SB 860 helps the state prepare for this demographic shift by providing the Maryland Department of Aging with a flexible, sustainable funding tool to strengthen programs that older adults rely on.

The Fund comprises fees collected under the Department of Aging's statutory authority, other money accepted for its benefit (e.g., grants, donations), and investment earnings. The Fund can support administrative or programmatic activities related to the Department's mission, including personnel costs, partnership development, and any programs, services, or activities within the Department.

We believe that establishing this fund could help support long-term planning and give the Department flexibility to respond to emerging needs. We note the rising demand for aging-in-place supports, growth in social isolation among older adults, and more complex caregiver situations.

The bill also allows the Fund to accept donations, grants, and other contributions. This gives the Department the opportunity to explore philanthropic partnerships and perhaps even pilot new programs before scaling statewide.

In sum, SB 860 makes the Department a more effective collaborator with nonprofits, local aging offices, and community partners, helping Maryland prepare for its rapidly aging population. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.

# **MDOA - FWA - SB860- Aging Resilience Fund - 3.9.26**

Uploaded by: Andrea Nunez

Position: FWA



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**

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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



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

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 Plan<sup>1</sup>, 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](mailto:andrea.nunez@maryland.gov) or (443) 414-8183.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.”.

# **SB860\_Amendment\_873824**

Uploaded by: Craig Zucker

Position: FWA



SB0860/873824/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

10 MAR 26  
12:05:45

BY: Senator Zucker  
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 860  
(First Reading File Bill)

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.”.**

**SB860\_FinalReprint\_873824**

Uploaded by: Craig Zucker

Position: FWA

# SENATE BILL 860

O2, O1, J1

6lr2803  
CF HB 804

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By: **Senators Zucker, Augustine, Benson, Carozza, Gile, Kramer, and Love**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026  
Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Aging – Aging Resilience Fund – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Aging Resilience Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund;  
4 providing for the purposes of the Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be  
5 credited to the Fund; requiring the Secretary of Aging to administer the Fund; and  
6 generally relating to the Aging Resilience Fund.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Human Services  
9 Section 10–101(a), (d), and (f)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
12 (As enacted by Chapters 33 and 34 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Human Services  
15 Section 10–204  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
20 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i) and (ii)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
24 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
25 Section 6–226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213.  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 860 as amended by SB0860/873824/1 03/10/26 at 12:05 PM

1 BY adding to  
2 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
3 Section 6–226(a)(2)(iii)214.  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Human Services**

9 10–101.

10 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 (d) “Department” means the Department of Aging.

12 (f) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Aging.

13 10–204.

14 (a) The Secretary shall administer the programs and activities that the federal  
15 government delegates to the State under the Older Americans Act of 1965 that are not  
16 otherwise committed by law to another unit of State government.

17 (b) The Secretary:

18 (1) is a member of the Governor’s Executive Council; and

19 (2) shall cooperate with and receive the cooperation of State, federal, and  
20 local governmental units to carry out the purposes of this title.

21 (c) The Secretary shall:

22 (1) evaluate the service needs of seniors in the State;

23 (2) determine the extent to which existing public and private programs  
24 meet the needs of seniors;

25 (3) establish priorities for meeting the needs of seniors;

26 (4) coordinate, subject to existing law, assess and evaluate, and educate  
27 the public and professionals about all State and local programs and services, both public  
28 and private, that relate and are important to the well-being of seniors in the State,  
29 including programs and services in the areas of:

3 REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 860 as amended by SB0860/873824/1 03/10/26 at 12:05 PM

- 1 (i) income maintenance;
- 2 (ii) public health;
- 3 (iii) mental health;
- 4 (iv) housing and urban development;
- 5 (v) employment;
- 6 (vi) education;
- 7 (vii) recreation; and
- 8 (viii) rehabilitation of seniors with physical or mental disabilities; and

9 (5) develop a statewide plan incorporating local plans for a comprehensive  
10 and coordinated system of health, social, and community services for seniors, including  
11 housing and institutional and noninstitutional care.

12 (d) The Secretary shall:

13 (1) represent the interests of seniors by serving as an advocate at all levels  
14 of government;

15 (2) consult with and advise the secretaries of the principal departments of  
16 State government about the programs and services for seniors that are the primary  
17 responsibility of those departments;

18 (3) consult with the Commission on Aging on all matters pertaining to  
19 programs for seniors;

20 (4) provide consultation and technical assistance to communities and civic  
21 groups developing local services for seniors;

22 (5) maintain a clearinghouse of information related to the interests of  
23 seniors; and

24 (6) review and recommend policies to the Governor on publicly funded  
25 plans and programs that affect seniors.

26 (e) The Secretary may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of law that  
27 are within the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

28 (F) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE AGING RESILIENCE  
29 FUND.

4 REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 860 as amended by SB0860/873824/1 03/10/26 at 12:05 PM

1 (2) THERE IS AN AGING RESILIENCE FUND.

2 (3) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO SUPPORT THE  
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION UNDER THIS TITLE.

4 (4) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

5 (5) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
6 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

7 (II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND  
8 SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

9 (6) (I) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

10 ~~(I)~~ 1. INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND;

11 ~~(II)~~ 2. ANY FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND

12 ~~(III)~~ 3. ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED  
13 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

(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.

14 (7) THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR ~~ADMINISTRATIVE~~ EXPENSES THAT  
15 ALIGN WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION UNDER THIS TITLE, INCLUDING:

16 ~~(I)~~ ~~PERSONNEL;~~

17 ~~(II)~~ (I) PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT; AND

18 ~~(III)~~ (II) ANY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE  
19 DEPARTMENT.

20 (8) (I) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE  
21 FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

22 (II) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE  
23 CREDITED TO THE FUND.

24 (9) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN  
25 ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

(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.

26

Article – State Finance and Procurement

27 6–226.

1 (a) (2) (i) This paragraph does not apply in fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

2 (ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
3 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
4 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
5 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
6 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
7 Fund of the State.

8 (iii) The provisions of subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph do not  
9 apply to the following funds:

10 212. the Department of Social and Economic Mobility Special  
11 Fund; [and]

12 213. the Population Health Improvement Fund; AND

13 214. **THE AGING RESILIENCE FUND.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2026.

**SB860- Senator Zucker- Senate.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Craig Zucker

Position: FWA

**CRAIG J. ZUCKER**  
*Legislative District 14*  
Montgomery County



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410-841-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 860-Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**  
**March 11th, 2026**  
**1:00pm**  
**Position: Favorable With Amendment**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and distinguished members of the Finance Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 860-Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**. I would like to thank Delegate Wolek for her leadership on this issue.

Across Maryland, more residents are living longer, and the population of older adults continues to grow. In 2000, individuals aged 60 and older made up approximately 15% of the state's population. By 2030, that share is projected to grow to 26%.

The Maryland Department of Aging plays a vital role in supporting this growing population. The Department connects older adults with essential resources, helps protect their independence and ability to age on their own terms, and works across government, nonprofit, and private sectors to highlight the important economic and social contributions older Marylanders make to our communities.

As this population grows, more residents will rely on the services and programs the Department provides. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of these services is increasingly important.

State funding for the Department in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, as well as the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, has remained relatively consistent at about \$40 million. However, federal funding has declined significantly during that same period, decreasing by \$8.3 million. Given current state budget challenges and uncertainty around future federal support, this is an important moment to diversify the Department's funding sources.

Senate Bill 860 addresses that need by establishing a special, non-lapsing fund within the Department of Aging called the Aging Resilience Fund. This fund will support the Department's efforts to develop innovative approaches to aging, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and expand equitable access to resources for older Marylanders.

As drafted, the fund may be supported through external contributions, investment earnings, and any fees collected by the Department. As drafted, it can support Department personnel, partnership development, and any programs, services, or activities overseen by the Department. **I am working with Delegate Wolek to address feedback we have received thus far. I have not received the amendments back yet, but will be sure to do so once we receive them.**

One of the Department's key goals is to modernize Maryland's aging infrastructure by strengthening collaboration among government, nonprofit, and private organizations serving older adults. The flexibility of the Aging Resilience Fund will help advance that goal by supporting innovative programming and partnerships across the state.

We worked closely with the Department of Aging in developing this legislation, and they are here today in support of the bill. The bill carries no fiscal note, as the Department can administer the fund using existing resources. **I urge a favorable with amendment report on Senate Bill 860.** Thank you for your kind consideration.