



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*

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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, HB 278. 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.

HB 278 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. HB 278'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 HB 278.

AMENDMENT:

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