



**Bill:** HB 278 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)

**Committee:** House Health Committee

**Position:** Favorable

**Date:** February 5, 2026

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association supports HB 278. As Maryland's aging population grows, HB 278 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, HB 278 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.

HB 278 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 HB 278. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at [mrpeters@alz.org](mailto:mrpeters@alz.org) with any questions.