



BILL NO: **HB 278**

TITLE: Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)

SPONSOR: Chair Heather Bagnall (By Request of Department – Aging)

COMMITTEE: Health

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 5, 2026

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 278 – The Longevity Ready Maryland Act. Baltimore County is home to one of the largest and fastest-growing populations of older adults in Maryland. This demographic shift is already influencing housing, transportation, health care, workforce participation, and community-based services across the County. Preparing for longevity is not a future concern—it is a present-day policy and planning imperative. House Bill 278 provides the statewide leadership, coordination, and accountability necessary to meet this challenge.

Baltimore County is an Age-Friendly Community, committed to advancing policies and practices that support residents across the lifespan. Through this designation, the County has begun aligning efforts across sectors to promote health, economic security, mobility, and community engagement. House Bill 278 will strengthen and reinforce this work by establishing a clear statewide framework that supports multisector longevity planning at the local level, enabling counties to align local strategies with shared state priorities.

By codifying the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan in statute and designating the Secretary of Aging to lead its implementation, this legislation ensures a coordinated, forward-looking, and data-informed approach to aging policy. For local governments, this structure is essential to aligning planning efforts, leveraging resources, and translating statewide goals into effective community-level action.

The Baltimore County Department of Aging, which serves as the County’s Area Agency on Aging, works daily with older adults, caregivers, service providers, and state and local partners. This on-the-ground experience underscores the importance of the bill’s focus on building a comprehensive longevity ecosystem, promoting economic opportunity across the lifespan, preparing residents to afford longevity, and optimizing health, wellness, and mobility—priorities that closely align with the County’s existing initiatives and best practices.

KATHERINE A. KLAUSMEIER
County Executive



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The County also strongly supports the bill's emphasis on cross-sector collaboration and systems-level change. Aging impacts nearly every area of public policy, and House Bill 278 appropriately recognizes that no single agency or program can address these challenges in isolation. In addition, Baltimore County supports the proposed enhancements to the Maryland Commission on Aging, which will strengthen accountability, representation, and responsiveness in statewide aging policy.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 278 from the House Health Committee. For more information, please contact Kayenda Twesigye, State Legislative Officer of Government Affairs at ktwesigye@baltimorecountymd.gov.