



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
House Health Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 240
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 278 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act) - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the House Health Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report with sponsor amendments for House Bill (HB) 278.

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 HB 278 - 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." HB 278 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.**

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.