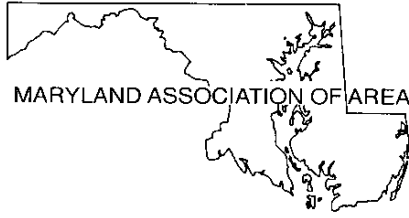


M 4 A



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

*Karen Winkowski
President
Representing Harford County
Office on Aging*

*Erin Bird, Vice President
Representing Cecil County
Department of Community Services*

*Ofelia Ross Ott, Treasurer
Representing Howard County
Office on Aging and Independence*

*Heang Tan, Secretary
Representing Baltimore County
Department of Aging*

House Health Committee

February 5, 2026

House Bill 278 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging The Longevity Ready Maryland Act

Favorable with Amendments

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A), we respectfully express our strong support for House Bill 278, the Longevity Ready Maryland Act, with the sponsor's amendments, plus an additional amendment. Codifying the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan is a critical step in ensuring Maryland is prepared to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse older adult population through coordinated, forward-looking, and cross-sector strategies. This legislation affirms the State's commitment to transforming systems, policies, and services so that older Marylanders can age with dignity, independence, and opportunity in their communities.

To further strengthen implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, M4A is proposing the incorporation of the following amendment into the bill:

On page 4 after line 10 insert:

(3) INCORPORATE STRATEGIES AND ELEMENTS FROM LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING PLANS AND OTHER LOCAL PLANS;

Area Agencies on Aging serve as the backbone of Maryland's aging services network and bring deep, locally-based expertise informed by community needs, local data, and lived experience. Embedding local planning efforts within the state framework will ensure alignment across systems, promote efficiency, and enhance outcomes for older adults and family caregivers throughout Maryland.

With this amendment, M4A urges a favorable report.

Who is M4A?

The nineteen member organizations of Maryland's Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A) serve Maryland's older and disabled citizens, providing a range of cost-effective state, federal and locally funded programs that help individuals remain secure in the community with dignity, independence, and choice as they age. M4A and its associated Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) represent the "front line" in Maryland's challenge to meet the complex and varied needs of well over one million older adults statewide. M4A's goal is to ensure coordination and communication with all partners on all aspects of senior service planning to enhance opportunity and availability to all eligible citizens.