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MAYOR

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SB0182

January 21, 2026

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 182 - Adult Protective Services - Modifications
POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 182.

This departmental bill alters provisions relating to the reporting and investigation of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults such that the local Department of Social Services is required to complete an investigation and make a certain defined finding regarding allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation within 60 days.

This bill will bring Maryland into compliance with a 2024 federal ruling regarding Adult Protective Services (APS) and strengthen the state's ability to hold those who abuse, neglect, and exploit vulnerable adults accountable. Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults is a serious and widespread issue in Baltimore City – both for Baltimore City residents and older adults originally from other counties.

Because of the number of hospitals and assisted living facilities in the city, many older adults from other counties are hospitalized in the City of Baltimore and subsequently discharged to assisted living facilities (ALFs) here. The Baltimore City Health Department's Division of Aging and Community Support serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the city. The agency also houses the Long-term Care Ombudsman program, which advocates for residents of nursing homes and licensed ALFs. Our Long-term Care Ombudsman frequently receives complaints of exploitation. Many assisted living providers require the residents to make them the representative payee, thereby removing their control of funding and subjecting these vulnerable adults to the discretion of the assisted living providers regarding their care, medication, food, and suitable living conditions. This becomes an even greater issue when the resident moves to another facility, in which cases the owner of their former residence often continues to take their money. Alternatively, this can prevent residents from moving to a new facility even if they want to, because they do not have control over their own finances.

By defining the findings that the local departments must make in their investigations, this bill will help strengthen the investigation and reporting of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults. For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 182.