
By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Housing and Community Development - Aging in Place**
3 **Program - Expense Vouchers**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing an Aging in Place Program; authorizing the
5 Department of Housing and Community Development to create a voucher
6 refund program that compensates certain households with elderly residents for
7 certain costs relating to renovations to certain housing that reduces certain
8 health risks associated with reduced mobility to elderly residents; requiring the
9 Department to administer the program; defining certain terms; and generally
10 relating to the Department of Housing and Community Development and the
11 Aging in Place Program.

12 BY adding to
13 Article 83B - Department of Housing and Community Development
14 Section 2-1501 through 2-1505 and the new subtitle "Subtitle 15. Aging in Place
15 Program"
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1998 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article 83B - Department of Housing and Community Development**

21 **SUBTITLE 15. AGING IN PLACE PROGRAM.**

22 2-1501.

23 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

24 (1) THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS FACING A CHALLENGE IN MEETING THE
25 MANY NEEDS OF A GROWING ELDERLY POPULATION;

26 (2) WE RECOGNIZE THAT NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF THE ELDERLY
27 POPULATION ARE BEING FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES AS ILLNESS, REDUCED

1 MOBILITY, AND LOSS OF FUNCTIONALITY MAKE THE EXISTING HOUSING
2 ENVIRONMENT EXTREMELY HOSTILE;

3 (3) SPENDING ON INSTITUTIONALIZED CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IS
4 GROWING FASTER THAN TOTAL HEALTH CARE SPENDING AND THAT FEW OF THE
5 ELDERLY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS FINANCIAL BURDEN WHICH ULTIMATELY
6 MAY BE BORNE BY THE STATE; AND

7 (4) THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION IS TO TAKE PREEMPTORY
8 STEPS TO ANTICIPATE AND REDUCE THE INCIDENCE AND SEVERITY OF CONDITIONS
9 THAT LEAD TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF OUR ELDERLY POPULATION.

10 2-1502.

11 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
12 INDICATED.

13 (B) "ELDERLY RESIDENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL AT LEAST 62 YEARS OLD.

14 (C) "SMART GROWTH" MEANS THE PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS IDENTIFIED IN
15 TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

16 (D) "VOUCHER" MEANS EVIDENCE OF EXPENSE.

17 2-1503.

18 THE PURPOSE OF THE AGING IN PLACE PROGRAM IS TO CREATE AND
19 ADMINISTER A VOUCHER-BASED REFUND PROGRAM THAT WILL ALLOW
20 HOMEOWNERS TO SUBSIDIZE RENOVATIONS TO EXISTING HOMES IN WHICH AT
21 LEAST ONE ELDERLY PERSON IS A PERMANENT RESIDENT TO REDUCE THE HEALTH
22 RISK THESE HOMES PRESENT TO ELDERLY RESIDENTS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY.

23 2-1504.

24 THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH:

25 (1) VOUCHER LIMITS OF 50 PERCENT OF THE RENOVATION EXPENSES
26 INTENDED TO REDUCE MOBILITY ISSUES FOR THE ELDERLY RESIDENT;

27 (2) COMPENSATION LIMITS WHICH MAY NOT EXCEED \$3,600 IN ANY 1
28 YEAR OR \$14,000 DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE ELDERLY RESIDENT;

29 (3) LIMITS FOR THE FIRST 3 YEARS TO ELDERLY RESIDENTS LIVING IN
30 DESIGNATED SMART GROWTH AREAS;

31 (4) LIMITS ON THE REFUND PROGRAM TO THE OWNER OCCUPIED HOME
32 OF THE ELDERLY RESIDENT; AND

33 (5) CRITERIA TO ASSESS REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES IN COOPERATION
34 WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND LOCAL ELDERLY CARE AGENCIES.

1 2-1505.

2 THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE "AGING IN PLACE PROGRAM".

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 1999.