

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 511

(Senator Hettleman)

Finance

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**Human Services – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications**

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This bill requires an individual appointed as the Secretary of Aging to (1) have extensive experience with and knowledge of laws, legislation, and regulations relating to aging and of programs for aging individuals, including evidence-based and data-driven programs; (2) demonstrate a commitment to the missions of both the federal Older Americans Act and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA); and (3) at minimum, hold a bachelor's degree. **The bill takes effect January 20, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is technical in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Secretary of Aging is the head of MDOA and must be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary must advise the Governor on all matters assigned to MDOA and is responsible for carrying out the Governor's policies related to aging matters. The Secretary must establish guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient operation of MDOA and may establish, reorganize, or abolish areas of responsibility in the department as necessary. With approval of the Governor, the Secretary must appoint a deputy secretary.

The Secretary is entitled to the compensation provided in the State budget and must prepare and submit a budget for MDOA. The Secretary may accept and use any State or federal funds. The Secretary may use any federal or private grant funds if the grant benefits Maryland's older adults.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 430 (Delegate Kerr) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Aging; Governor's Office; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 2022  
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