

Chapter 93

(House Bill 278)

AN ACT concerning

**Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan; repealing, adding, and altering certain duties of the Secretary to enable the implementation, reporting, and evolution of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan; altering the membership and duties of the Commission on Aging; requiring the Department of Aging to staff the Commission; and generally relating to the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, the Department of Aging, and the Commission on Aging.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 10–101
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapters 33 and 34 of 2025)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 10–204, 10–206, and 10–208
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

10–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Area agency on aging” means the local agency that the Department designates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to administer the delivery of a comprehensive and coordinated [plan] **SYSTEM** of social and other services and activities for older adults in a planning and service area.

(c) “Community for a Lifetime” means a community certified under § 10–804 of this title.

(d) “Department” means the Department of Aging.

(E) “LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN” MEANS A MULTISECTOR PLAN ON AGING THAT:

(1) TRANSFORMS PROGRAMS, SERVICES, POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS THE GROWING POPULATION OF OLDER ADULTS; AND

(2) INCORPORATES STREAMLINED, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO AGING SERVICES.

[(e)] (F) “Planning and service area” means an area of the State that the Department designates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 for the planning and administration of social, health, and other services for older adults.

[(f)] (G) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Aging.

10–204.

(a) The Secretary shall administer the programs and activities that the federal government delegates to the State under the Older Americans Act of 1965 that are not otherwise committed by law to another unit of State government.

(b) The Secretary:

(1) is a member of the Governor’s Executive Council; and

(2) shall cooperate with and receive the cooperation of State, federal, and local governmental units to carry out the purposes of this title.

(c) The Secretary shall **LEAD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN, WITH THE FOLLOWING GOALS:**

(1) BUILDING A LONGEVITY ECOSYSTEM;

(2) PROMOTING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY;

(3) PREPARING STATE RESIDENTS TO AFFORD LONGEVITY; AND

(4) OPTIMIZING HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND MOBILITY.

(D) TO IMPLEMENT THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN, THE SECRETARY SHALL:

(1) evaluate the service needs of [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS** in the State;

(2) determine the extent to which existing public and private programs [meet the needs of seniors], **POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS**;

(3) establish priorities for meeting the needs of [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS**;
AND

(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:

(I) relate and are important to the well-being of [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS** in the State[, including programs and services in the areas of:

(i) income maintenance;

(ii) public health;

(iii) mental health;

(iv) housing and urban development;

(v) employment;

(vi) education;

(vii) recreation; and

(viii) rehabilitation of seniors with physical or mental disabilities; and

(5) develop a statewide plan incorporating local plans for a comprehensive and coordinated system of health, social, and community services for seniors, including housing, and institutional and noninstitutional care]; **AND**

(II) ARE DESIGNED TO ASSIST OLDER ADULTS AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN LEADING INDEPENDENT AND DIGNIFIED LIVES IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.

[(d)] (E) The Secretary shall:

(1) represent the interests of [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS** by serving as an advocate **FOR POLICY, SYSTEMS, AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE** at all levels of

government AND WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN SUPPORT OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN;

(2) [consult with and advise the secretaries of the principal departments of State government] **EMPHASIZE CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION, INCLUDING CONSULTING AND ADVISING UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS** about [the programs and services for seniors that are the primary responsibility of those departments] **ANY ACTION THE UNIT, BOARD, OR COMMISSION MAY TAKE TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN;**

(3) consult with the Commission on Aging on [all matters pertaining to programs for seniors] **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN;**

(4) provide consultation and technical assistance to [communities and civic groups] **ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ENTITIES OR PERSONS** developing local services for [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AREA AGENCIES ON AGING AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT;**

(5) maintain a [clearinghouse of information] **SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION, REFERRALS, AND COUNSELING FOR OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS** related to the interests of [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN; and**

(6) review and recommend [policies] **LEGISLATION AND OTHER POLICY ACTION** to the Governor on publicly funded plans [and], programs, **INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS** that affect [seniors] **OLDER ADULTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN; AND**

(7) MAINTAIN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE RESOURCE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE FOR MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN.

[(e)] **(F)** The Secretary may adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of law that are within the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

10-206.

(a) On or before January 1 each year, the Secretary shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly **ON:**

(1) THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES CENTERS DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(2) A SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES FUNDED AT SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES CENTERS.

[(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section that shall include:

(1) with the advice and recommendation of the Commission on Aging:

(i) a description of the senior citizen activities centers in each county;

(ii) the allocation and use of funds made available for senior citizen activities centers;

(iii) the results of any studies; and

(iv) any recommendations for legislation; and

(2) information regarding the operation and performance of accessible housing services counseling provided by the Aging and Disability Resource Center Program.]

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, THE SECRETARY SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF:

(I) THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR TO IMPLEMENT THE MOST RECENTLY PUBLISHED COMPREHENSIVE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN;

(II) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, POLICY CHANGE, OR OTHER RELATED PLANNING OR ADVOCACY EFFORTS MADE BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING TO THE DEPARTMENT;

(III) ANY STUDY, SURVEY, OR OTHER FORM OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR THE COMMISSION ON AGING; AND

(IV) ANY AVAILABLE RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING.

(c) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2029, AND EVERY 4 YEARS ON JULY 1 THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN THAT:

(1) COMPLIES WITH § 10-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) INCLUDES PROGRESS MADE ON EXISTING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES IDENTIFIED IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN;

(3) MAINTAINS EXISTING GOALS AND INCLUDES ANY ADDITIONAL GOALS; ~~AND~~

(4) UPDATES OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES IF APPROPRIATE BASED ON EVOLVING CIRCUMSTANCES AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS; AND

(5) IS INFORMED BY THE STATE PLAN ON AGING AS REQUIRED BY THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965 AND OTHER RELEVANT STATE AND LOCAL PLANS AND AGENCY COLLABORATIONS.

10-208.

(a) There is a Commission on Aging in the Department.

(b) (1) The Commission consists of [13] **THE FOLLOWING** members [appointed by the Governor as follows]:

(i) [1 shall be a] **ONE** member of the Senate of Maryland, [who may not vote] **APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

(ii) [1 shall be a] **ONE** member of the [Maryland] House of Delegates, [who may not vote] **APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;** [and]

(iii) [11 shall be selected to reflect the geographic diversity of the State and because of their interest in the needs of seniors] **THE SECRETARY OF AGING, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; AND**

(IV) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

1. ~~ONE DIRECTOR OF AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING, SERVING AS~~ THREE DIRECTORS OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING;

2. THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE THAT ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS AND CAREGIVERS;

3. ~~FIVE~~ SIX EXPERTS ON AGING REPRESENTING THE DISCIPLINES OF HEALTH CARE, TECHNOLOGY, ACADEMIA, INNOVATION, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPY; ~~AND~~

4. FIVE INDIVIDUALS WITH A DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN; AND

5. ONE VETERAN WITH A DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN.

(2) [At least 7 members shall be at least 55 years old] **TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP SHALL REFLECT THE AGE, RACE, ETHNICITY, DISABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, IMMIGRANT HERITAGE, LIVED AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, AND REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.**

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

[(c)] (D) (1) The term of a member of the Commission is 4 years.

(2) The terms of **NEW** members appointed under subsection **[(b)(1)(iii)] (B)(1)(IV)** of this section are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, **[2007] 2026**.

(3) A member of the Commission appointed under subsection **[(b)(1)(iii)] (B)(1)(IV)** of this section may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

(4) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(5) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(6) A MEMBER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE MEETINGS DURING ANY CONSECUTIVE 12-MONTH PERIOD SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED.

(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE FREQUENCY, DATES, TIMES, AND PLACES OF ITS MEETINGS.

[(d)] (F) (1) From among the members of the Commission, the [Governor] SECRETARY:

(I) shall designate [a] THE chair OF THE COMMISSION; AND

(II) MAY DESIGNATE A VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

(2) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS THEN SERVING ON THE COMMISSION IS A QUORUM.

(3) THE CHAIR MAY ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION.

(4) THE COMMISSION MAY CONSULT AND COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL COMMISSIONS ON AGING.

[(e)] (G) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

[(f)] (H) The Commission shall:

(1) exercise the powers and perform the duties specified in this title;

(2) [review:

(i) ongoing statewide programs and activities for seniors; and

(ii) new statewide programs for seniors before the programs are implemented; and

(3) make recommendations to the Secretary about statewide programs and activities for seniors] REVIEW AND ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN AND OVERALL PROGRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND MULTISECTOR PARTNERS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MOST RECENTLY PUBLISHED LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN;

(3) ADVISE THE SECRETARY ON LEGISLATIVE, POLICY, AND OTHER SYSTEMS CHANGES THAT COULD ASSIST WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN; AND

(4) ADVISE THE SECRETARY ON ANY UPDATE TO THE LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLAN REQUIRED BY § 10–206 OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING ANY UPDATE TO THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES TO BE INCLUDED IN SUBSEQUENT LONGEVITY READY MARYLAND PLANS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The terms of the members of the Commission on Aging serving on October 1, 2026, shall continue until the expiration of the member's term.

(b) The terms of the members of the Commission on Aging appointed in accordance with § 10–208(b)(1)(iv) of the Human Services Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall expire as follows:

- (1) four in 2028;
- (2) five in 2029; and
- (3) five in 2030.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2026.