

# HOUSE BILL 162

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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Queen**

Requested: October 30, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Health

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Aging – Maryland Access Point – Dementia-Friendly**  
3 **Communities**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Aging to provide resources, training,  
5 grants, and other support to the Maryland Access Point network to create  
6 dementia-friendly communities through community-based efforts; requiring the  
7 Maryland Access Point network to provide certain public awareness and educational  
8 materials to communities regarding community-based ways to support individuals  
9 with dementia; and generally relating to Maryland Access Point and individuals with  
10 dementia.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Human Services  
13 Section 10–1001, 10–1002, and 10–1004  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Human Services**

19 10–1001.

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

21 (b) “Aging and Disability Resource Center” has the meaning stated in 42 U.S.C.  
22 § 3002(4).

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) PROVIDES SUPPORTIVE OPTIONS THAT FOSTER QUALITY OF LIFE  
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA.

(D) "Long-term services and supports" means the broad range of assistance needed by older adults and individuals with disabilities.

10            **[(d)] (E)**     “Options counseling” means an interactive process that:

11 (1) considers an individual's needs, preferences, values, and circumstances;

12 (2) assists and supports the individual and others the individual requests  
13 to participate in the process;

14 (3) determines the individual's goals for independent living; and

15 (4) develops an appropriate long-term services and supports plan to  
16 achieve those goals.

17        **(e) (F)**     "Program" means the Aging and Disability Resource Center Program  
18    established under this subtitle.

19 10-1002.

20 (a) There is an Aging and Disability Resource Center Program, known as  
21 "Maryland Access Point", in the Department.

22 (b) The Program is the State's Aging and Disability Resource Center for purposes  
23 of the federal Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006.

24 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide a coordinated system of information  
25 and access for individuals seeking long-term services and supports, including in-home,  
26 community-based, and institutional services.

27 (d) The Department shall provide:

8 10-1004.

The Program shall, using its available resources, provide:

10 (1) options counseling;

11 (2) assistance concerning aging and disability issues and long-term  
12 services and supports planning;

13 (3) written materials regarding the availability of Program services;

14 (4) a public database, which can be accessed and searched on the Internet,  
15 of resources and services that could be useful to:

16 (i) individuals who may need long-term services and supports;

17 (ii) caregivers of individuals who need long-term services and  
18 supports; and

19 (iii) individuals involved in long-term services and supports  
20 planning; [and]

21 (5) PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO  
22 COMMUNITIES REGARDING DEMENTIA, INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BASED WAYS TO:

## 23 (I) REDUCE THE STIGMA OF DEMENTIA:

## **(II) PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING, EMPATHY, AND TOLERANCE:**

1                   **2. PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY LIFE; AND**

2                   **3. FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING; AND**

3                   **(V) FACILITATE SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR FIRST**  
4   **RESPONDERS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, PUBLIC AGENCIES, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**  
5   **THAT ENCOURAGE STAFF TO BE MORE AWARE AND SUPPORTIVE OF INDIVIDUALS**  
6   **WITH DEMENTIA; AND**

7                   **[(5)] (6) other related services necessary for the Program's success.**

8                   **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
9   **October 1, 2026.**