

HOUSE BILL 1280

O2, O3

6lr1272
CF SB 809

By: **Delegates Wims, Coley, Crutchfield, Kaufman, McComas, Vogel, Wolek, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program – Feasibility Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of the Comptroller, with assistance from the
4 Department of Human Services, to conduct a certain feasibility study for
5 establishing and operating the Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program;
6 and generally relating to a feasibility study for the Supporting Our Caregiver
7 Infrastructure Program.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 (2) “Caregiver” means an individual who provides care or support to a
12 qualified family member.

13 (3) “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

14 (4) “Qualified family member” means an individual who:

15 (i) requires assistance with one or more daily living activities, as
16 certified by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner; and

17 (ii) 1. is at least 60 years old and is cared for by an adult relative
18 or informal caregiver who is at least 18 years old;

19 2. has Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder and is cared
20 for by an adult relative or informal caregiver who is at least 18 years old;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 3. is a child with developmental or functional disabilities and
2 is cared for by a parent, grandparent, or other relative; or

3 4. is an adult with developmental or functional disabilities
4 and is cared for by a parent, grandparent, or other relative.

5 (b) (1) The Office of the Comptroller, with assistance from the Department,
6 shall study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing and operating a
7 Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program to provide universal monthly payments
8 to a caregiver for each dependent for whom a caregiver provides care.

9 (2) In conducting the study required under paragraph (1) of this
10 subsection, the Office of the Comptroller shall examine the economic impact on the State
11 and local economies, including:

12 (i) potential increased labor force participation;

13 (ii) enhanced tax revenues;

14 (iii) potential decreased participation in public benefits programs in
15 the State; and

16 (iv) the overall economic vitality of the State.

17 (3) The Department shall assist the Office of the Comptroller in conducting
18 the study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection by:

19 (i) identifying available and potential federal, State, and local
20 funding sources for the program;

21 (ii) identifying the administrative needs, administrative costs, and
22 operating costs associated with the development and implementation of the program;

23 (iii) exploring appropriate amounts for caregiver stipends that
24 maximize the benefit to the State economy and minimize the fiscal impact on the State
25 budget; and

26 (iv) consulting with:

27 1. the Maryland Department of Aging;

28 2. the Maryland Department of Health; and

29 3. local agencies on aging and disabilities, including a unit of
30 local government or a private, nonprofit corporation.

1 (c) On or before July 1, 2027, the Office of the Comptroller shall submit a final
2 report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee,
3 the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the
4 House Health Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028,
7 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
8 of no further force and effect.