

SENATE BILL 809

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6lr1790
CF HB 1280

By: **Senator King**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

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

12 (2) In conducting the study required under paragraph (1) of this
13 subsection, the ~~Office of the Comptroller~~ University of Maryland, College Park, in
14 consultation with the Office of the Comptroller, shall examine the economic impact on the
15 State and local economies, including:

16 (i) potential increased labor force participation;

17 (ii) enhanced tax revenues;

18 (iii) potential decreased participation in public benefits programs in
19 the State; and

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

21 (3) The University of Maryland, College Park shall explore appropriate
22 amounts for caregiver stipends that maximize the benefit to the State economy and
23 minimize the fiscal impact on the State budget.

24 ~~(3)~~ (4) The Department shall assist the ~~Office of the Comptroller~~ University of
25 Maryland, College Park in conducting the study required under paragraph (1) of this
26 subsection by:

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

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

31 ~~(iii) exploring appropriate amounts for caregiver stipends that~~
32 ~~maximize the benefit to the State economy and minimize the fiscal impact on the State~~
33 ~~budget; and~~

1 ~~(iv)~~ (iii) consulting with:

2 1. the Maryland Department of Aging;

3 2. the Maryland Department of Health; and

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

6 (c) On or before July 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, the ~~Office of the Comptroller~~ University of
7 Maryland, College Park shall submit a final report of its findings, conclusions, and
8 recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation
9 Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Health Committee, in
10 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~2~~ 3 years and, at the end of June 30, ~~2028~~
13 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated
14 and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.