

Chapter 704

(House Bill 1280)

AN ACT concerning

Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program – Feasibility Study

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

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

- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) “Caregiver” means an individual who provides care or support to a qualified family member.
- (3) “Department” means the Department of Human Services.
- (4) “Qualified family member” means an individual who:
- (i) requires assistance with one or more daily living activities, as certified by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner; and
 - (ii)
 1. is at least 60 years old and is cared for by an adult relative or informal caregiver who is at least 18 years old;
 2. has Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder and is cared for by an adult relative or informal caregiver who is at least 18 years old;
 3. is a child with developmental or functional disabilities and is cared for by a parent, grandparent, or other relative; or
 4. is an adult with developmental or functional disabilities and is cared for by a parent, grandparent, or other relative.
- (b) (1) The ~~Office of the Comptroller~~ University of Maryland, College Park, with assistance from the Department, shall study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing and operating a Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program to provide universal monthly payments to a caregiver for each dependent for whom a caregiver provides care.

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

- (i) potential increased labor force participation;
- (ii) enhanced tax revenues;
- (iii) potential decreased participation in public benefits programs in the State; and
- (iv) the overall economic vitality of the State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. the Maryland Department of Aging;
2. the Maryland Department of Health; and
3. local agencies on aging and disabilities, including a unit of local government or a private, nonprofit corporation.

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.