

TERRI L. HILL, M.D.
Legislative District 12
Baltimore and Howard Counties

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Estates and Trusts

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 214
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3378 · 301-858-3378
800-492-7122 Ext. 3378
Fax 410-841-3197 · 301-858-3197
Terri.Hill@house.state.md.us

District Office
410-884-4380
Fax 410-884-5481

January 14, 2021

HB255- Support
Department of Aging- Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs- Funding

Chair McIntosh, Vice-Chair Jackson, and Committee Members,

HB255 is identical and in the same posture as HB498 from the 2020 session as passed by the General Assembly by votes of 136 – 0 in the House and 45 - 0 in the Senate. The bill the 2019 session HB251, authorizing the Maryland Department of Aging to grant non-profit organization and area agencies on aging to establish and expand the current aging-in-place programs for seniors passed both chambers without opposition, and was signed into law by the governor. NO funding, however, has been allocated in this year's budget.

HB255 appropriates \$100,000 to the Aging in Place grants program within the Department of Aging, which the General Assembly established in 2019 through the Nonprofits for our Aging Neighbors Act (NANA). and requires maintenance of effort in funding going forward. HB255 also provides that a portion of the funding be earmarked to specifically support senior villages, organized networks of seniors that provide mutual support for aging-in-place to their members while fostering social connections

For the increasing percentage of Marylanders living into their 70's, 80's and beyond, as issues of health, lifestyle and living costs become more pressing, aging-in-place is the preferred housing option over nursing homes, assisted living facilities and even retirement communities. While in most circumstances demonstrably and significantly less expensive for both the public and the individual, and more emotionally satisfying for many seniors and their families, successful aging-in-place requires availability of a range of accessible support services, infrastructure and strategies. Across the state, these resources and the ability of the public sector to provided needed services are limited. And the not-for-profit sector continues to be a critical partner in meeting the need, often in ways that public agencies cannot. Nonprofits assist seniors with such things as personal care, health management, food insecurity, and psychological, economic, and functional assistance. They increase the awareness, provide care coordination and transportation, and assist with home modifications and repairs to improve safety, mobility, and accessibility, much more. The nonprofit model often allows for greater efficiency in support delivery, and serves as a force multiplier of, and bridge to, government programs as well.

This funding was recognized as critical for expanding the number of clients served and support services available to the aging population in each of our communities before the pandemic. Since the spring of 2020, the need has expanded and come into sharper focus. Last year's veto has delayed needed service expansion and we should act to ensure that the nonprofits doing such vital work for our constituents, relatives, and ourselves is not hindered further.

In consideration of all of this and of those we represent, I ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Hill'.