



6811 Campfield Road
Baltimore, MD 21207

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee

FROM: LeadingAge Maryland

SUBJECT: House Bill 1123, Local Health Departments - Funding

DATE: February 25, 2021

POSITION: Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland writes to request an favorable report on House Bill 1123, Local Health Departments - Funding.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. We represent more than 120 not-for-profit organizations, including the vast majority of CCRCs in Maryland. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

This bill specifies the amount of funding required to be included in the State budget for local health services for upcoming fiscal years and alters the purposes for which local health department funding may be used to include protective equipment for health care personnel and materials appropriate to prepare for potential communicable disease emergencies.

COVID-19 has revealed the true importance of a strong and sustainable public health infrastructure. LeadingAge Maryland works closely with local health departments which are vital and critical partners regardless of whether there is an ongoing pandemic. These agencies were struggling with resources before COVID-19 and the pandemic has exacerbated the

situation. In light of the last year, local health departments deserve sufficient funding to meet their mission.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 1123.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, 410.446.1992