



200 St. Paul Place, #2510 | Baltimore, MD 21202
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-895-0269 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/md | mdaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmaryland
facebook.com/aarpmid

**SB 907 Human Services - Critical Medical Needs Program - Application for Assistance
Favorable
Senate Finance Committee
March 11, 2021**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations, encompassing more than 850,000 members. AARP MD overwhelmingly supports **SB 907 Human Services - Critical Medical Needs Program - Application for Assistance**. We thank Senator Benson for sponsoring this important legislation.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

SB 907 allows a person over 60 using a navigator will not be required to provide a medical certificate. This will fast track assistance an eliminating an onerous step. While AARP normally does not advocate on age related legislation, this bill will make it easier for an individual to get the assistance they need especially an individual who has chronic illness.

AARP supports making it easier to ensure those with critical medical needs are not subject to utility disconnection and get the help they need to manage their utility bills. We therefore support the bill.

AARP believes that policymakers should ensure consumers have access to reliable, safe, and high-quality utility electric and gas services. Services should be offered at just and reasonable rates. Fair terms and conditions, as well as minimum service standard protections, must be included.



AARP also believes that policymakers should prohibit unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices. These include unfair early termination penalties and misleading marketing practices.

For these reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on SB 907. If you have questions, please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.