



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

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DATE: February 8, 2023

BILL NUMBER: SB0228

COMMITTEE: Finance

BILL TITLE: Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigation Program

POSITION: Letter of Information

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding SB0228 – Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigation Program.

The Department considers this program as a good starting place for the conversation. However, please consider discussions about cognitive health, behavioral health and medication management that are inextricably linked to the challenges. Additional discussions are needed to determine the level of medical and mental health expertise.

The position of Dementia Care Coordinator would require a candidate with substantial expertise and knowledge. Due to these requirements, the salary for the Dementia Care Coordinator would need to be a Grade 18, Step 14 with a salary starting at \$86,121. This position would require supervision from senior management at a salary portion of \$8,585. The total amount for both salaries and fringe would be approximately \$151,530.

In order to meet the provisions SB0228, a certain number of Dementia Care Navigators need to be hired in each jurisdiction. The Department determined that the average salary for this position would be approximately \$140,000 (including fringe). At a minimum of two Navigators per Area Agency of Aging, which would likely not be sufficient, the total expenditures for 38 Dementia Care Navigators would be \$5,320,000. Additional costs would include, at a minimum, space, training, marketing, and travel.

Equity will require consideration of bi-lingual staff at the state and local jurisdiction levels to ensure that all populations will have equal access to information and services. This will incur additional costs for staff and outreach to all communities. Reaching rural residency also will impact staff work, time, and number.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging offers this Letter of Information for SB0228 and strongly urges a reconsideration of the legislation in its current form.