



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 228

DATE: March 30, 2023

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle

ASSIGNED TO: Health & Government Operations

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT (Department of Health and Human Services)

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### Department of Aging - Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Programs

Senate Bill 228 requires each Area Agency on Aging in the State to undertake extensive assessment and support services for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Specifically, the bill requires the Area Agencies on Aging to: establish a Long Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program to conduct cognitive assessments for individuals concerned with their cognition; provide access and referrals to long-term care and chronic disease services; provide programs for individuals with dementia; provide support for caregivers of individuals with dementia; provide technical assistance to Area Agency on Aging staff who interact with individuals with dementia diagnoses or cognitive changes associated with dementia; act as conduits between health care providers and individuals who demonstrate symptoms of dementia and their caregivers; and provide any other appropriate service. To oversee this work, under the bill the Maryland Department of Aging is tasked with providing training and dissemination of best practices to Area Agency on Aging staff and submitting an annual report on the services provided. The bill mandates \$2,400,000 of funding beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 for the Program to be allocated by the Department according to each Area Agency on Aging's population served and need for services.

### **MCDHHS respectfully urges the committee to adopt amendments to Senate Bill 228 to conform it to the Third Reader version of House Bill 614.**

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) recognizes the importance of providing adequate services and supports for residents with dementia and their caregivers. Rates of dementia are on the rise as the population ages. The needs of people with dementia are many and there are often myriad complications associated with their care. Caring for individuals with dementia contributes to higher caregiver rates of illness and emotional stress. However, the broad mandates in the bill present policy, implementation, and funding issues that MCDHHS respectfully requests that the committee resolve by amending Senate Bill 228 to conform with the Third Reader version of House Bill 614.