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Bill: SB 228 - Department of Aging – Long–Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Programs

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Position: Favorable with amendments (FWA)

Date: March 30, 2023

On behalf of the more than 110,000 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's and the nearly 250,000 caregivers, the Alzheimer's Association strongly supports SB 228 and urges a report of favorable with amendments.

SB 228 (and its crossfile HB 614) would establish the Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program within the Maryland Department of Aging. The program would help individuals and their loved ones who are concerned with their cognition, living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia to be connected to information and services. Utilizing the existing infrastructure created within Maryland's 19 local Area Agencies on Aging, this program would provide much needed direction to help some of Maryland's most vulnerable adults.

Both SB 228 and HB 614 were approved with amendments by their respective chamber unanimously. While the amendments dilute the dementia-specific intent, we are still supportive of the work that will come out of it. The amendments attached simply conform SB 228 to the language used in HB 614 with one exception. The Senate Finance Committee specified that the Program should provide referrals and access to chronic disease services in addition to long-term care services. The Alzheimer's Association discussed these amendments with the Maryland Department of Aging and the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates the committee's review of SB 228 and urges a report of favorable with amendments.

Please contact David McShea at djmcshea@alz.org with any questions.

Draft Amendments - SB 228 (Beidle)

March 30, 2023

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, in line 18, strike “ASSESSMENTS” and substitute “SCREENINGS”;

in line 28, strike “ESTABLISH” and substitute “DEVELOP”;

in line 29, after “PROGRAM” insert “THAT CONSISTS OF NEW OR EXISTING SERVICES”;

In line 30 “(2)” insert “(I)”;

after line 31, insert: “(II) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION OF THE FUNDING PROVIDED TO EACH AREA AGENCY UNDER § 10–1303 OF THIS SUBTITLE, EACH AREA AGENCY SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.”;

On page 4, in line 5 strike “ASSESSMENT” and substitute “SCREENING”;

in line 21, after “DEMENTIA;” insert “AND”.

Strike beginning with the semicolon in line 29 down through “SERVICE” in line 30;

On page 5 in line 11, strike “NEEDS OF AND SIZE OF” and substitute “NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL LIKELY NEED LONG–TERM CARE OR DEMENTIA CARE SERVICES IN”.