



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 6, 2024

Bill Number: **SB952**

Bill Title: Assisted Living Programs - Assisted Living Referrers - Requirements and Prohibitions

Committee: Senate Finance

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this letter of support on Senate Bill (SB) 952 - Assisted Living Programs - Assisted Living Referrers - Requirements and Prohibitions.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. Pursuant to a recent Executive Order, in January 2024, MDOA launched the Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative,¹ which will build upon existing efforts across state agencies, private and philanthropic sectors and other stakeholders to tackle real-life challenges throughout the lifespan, taking a whole-of-life and whole-of-government approach. Access to high-quality assisted living facilities are a critical component of the long-term care ecosystem and an important component of longevity-readiness.

A well-regulated community of assisted living referral service providers is an important component of the long-term care services and supports system; they facilitate a better understanding of care options. In addition, finding appropriate assisted living care for a loved one can help family members and other caregivers rejoin the workforce.

¹ See, Maryland Department of Aging: Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative *available at*: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/LRM.aspx>



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These referral businesses also are well-positioned to support small assisted living providers, who are a vitally important small business sector that responds to a strong demand for affordable long-term care in our communities. Enacting these additional common sense guardrails around assisted living referral services will give older Marylanders and their families greater protection when engaging with them in their search for assisted living options.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging