



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: January 29, 2025

Bill Number: HB286

Bill Title: Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy – Planning Principles

Committee: Environment & Transportation

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE

The Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill (SB) 286 - Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy – Planning Principles.

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 an 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. A major aspect of building a longevity-ready state is more affordable housing options for all ages and stages of life.

MDOA commends the Department of Planning for bringing forward this bill to make important updates to statewide planning principles. The bill’s focus on streamlining the planning process and promoting the creation of more affordable housing options will absolutely benefit Maryland’s longevity-readiness. Affordable, reliable, and energy-efficient transportation will keep older adults more engaged in their communities, able to access essential services, and promote independent living.

¹ More on Longevity-Ready MD Initiative available at: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/LRM.aspx>



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For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a favorable report for House Bill 286. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Roques".

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging