



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 14, 2025

Bill Number: **SB 684**

Bill Title: Public Health - Health Equity Dashboard

Committee: Senate Finance

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this **favorable with amendments testimony** on Senate Bill (SB) 684 - Public Health - Health Equity Dashboard.

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 signed in January, 2024, MDOA has worked heavily during 2024 on the Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative,¹ which emphasizes building on cross-agency and cross-sector engagement to tackle real-life challenges throughout the lifespan. One early product of the Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative is a Longevity-Ready Data Dashboard, a publicly available dashboard developed in partnership with the Maryland Department of Planning. It is planned for public release in late 2025.

The Longevity-Ready Dashboard currently features significant health data, drawing from existing data sources available to the Department of Planning. The dashboard proposed by SB684 will provide additional valuable *age-adjusted* data that could be a useful supplement to MDOA's current Longevity-Ready Dashboard. The additional public data source

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



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proposed by SB684 will strengthen MDOA and partners' ability to plan for longer lives in Maryland more effectively. This resource will also strengthen our existing health promotion programming, MDOA's impact, advocacy and reporting to federal partners at the Administration for Community Living, and efforts to bring in additional public and private funding sources to the state for the benefit of older Marylanders.

MDOA understands the Department of Health is already performing the work SB684 authorizes through the development of a state Health Indicators Dashboard. MDOA supports the Department of Health's position on SB684 and any additional amendments requested. For these reasons, MDOA respectfully urges **a favorable with amendments report** on SB684.

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