



Heaver Plaza  
1301 York Road, #505  
Lutherville, MD 21093  
phone 443.901.1550  
fax 443.901.0038  
www.mhamd.org

**SB 212 – Department of Aging – Aging Services – Programs Repeal and Consolidation**

Senate Finance Committee

January 22, 2025

**Position: SUPPORT**

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 212.

SB 212 would consolidate three separate programs for older Marylanders into one comprehensive program that provides a variety of supports to older adults, so that they can continue to live in the community and avoid institutionalization. In addition, the bill removes from statute all references to a now defunct body.

Responsibilities of the “Interagency Committee on Aging Services,” which is referenced in statute, have long been assumed by the Department of Aging. SB 212 simply codifies this change.

In addition, SB 212 consolidates three community-based programs for older adults into one, thereby creating efficiencies, which has the potential to allow more older adults to be served. There are waiting lists for the programs and limitations, and any actions that can be taken to expand services are welcomed.

For this reason, MHAMD supports SB 212 and urges a favorable report.

*For more information, please contact Ann Geddes at (443) 926-3396*