



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 24, 2025

Bill Number: HB756

Bill Title: Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person – Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

**MDOA Position: FAVORABLE ON BILL AS AMENDED**

---

The Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to submit this favorable as amended testimony for House Bill (HB) 756 - Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person – Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings.

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. Among many other roles, Maryland's 19 AAA's serve as public guardians or "guardians of the person" in last resort situations for adults 65 and older where no other family member or suitable alternative guardian is available. As guardians of the person, AAAs depend on the work of the court-appointed guardians of property who manage the older adults' assets.

Public guardianship cases for older adults vary in terms of their circumstances, but often the older adult involved owns or rents their own home, whether they live alone or with others. Due to a variety of health circumstances, these older adults subject to a guardianship petition regularly fall behind in their rent, mortgage, or property tax payments. This temporary stay upon request will provide a reasonable method for preserving an older adult's home and assets during the critical transition period while a guardianship petition is being considered by the appropriate court. The common-sense pause in civil actions against the property of the older adult that HB 756 authorizes will be useful to older adults and the public guardianship system as a whole. It will provide greater housing security and stronger economic protection for these older adults in



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

these situations. MDOA is supportive of the clarifying amendments to the bill sponsor and other key stakeholders agreed to.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a **favorable as amended report for House Bill 756**. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at [andrea.nunez@maryland.gov](mailto:andrea.nunez@maryland.gov) or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Aging