



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: January 30, 2026

Bill Number: **HB 226**

Bill Title: Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations - Establishment

Committee: Appropriations

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to submit this favorable with amendments testimony for House Bill (HB) 226 - Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations - Establishment.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal and state funding for core services for older adults, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides these services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. MDOA strongly supports the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) in bringing forward SB 22. This bill would authorize MDOD to establish one or more independent, non-government foundations that could raise outside funds, apply for grants, and form private partnerships to benefit sorely needed initiatives for people with disabilities. These new foundations will allow Marylanders with disabilities to benefit from more funding outside of government. It will fund more affordable accessible housing and assistive technology for people with disabilities as well as the state's Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy. In times of limited government funding and growing populations, needs, and reductions in federal support, MDOA commends MDOD for adopting this type of expansive approach to its work. MDOA supports the adoption of MDOD's technical amendments.



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Deepening philanthropic partnerships and leveraging varied funding sources to deliver more useful services to more people with disabilities directly aligns with MDOA's Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan¹, which will work to make Maryland more prepared for our increasingly longer lives over the next 10 years.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a **favorable with amendments** report for HB 226. 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

¹ MD Department of Aging website, "Longevity Ready Maryland," *available at*: <https://lrm.maryland.gov/>