



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269  
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm  
facebook.com/aarpm

**SB 151 Income Tax – Income Tax - Credit for Individuals Residing With  
and Caring for Elderly Parents  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
January 21, 2025  
10:00 AM  
FAVORABLE**

Good morning, Chairman Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our members, I am pleased to support SB 151, which would create a state income tax credit for individuals who live with and care for parents age 70 or older. We thank Senator Folden for introducing this important legislation.

AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 151, Income Tax – Credit for Individuals Residing With and Caring for Elderly Parents. Today, I urge the committee to support this critical legislation that recognizes the invaluable contributions of family caregivers and offers them much-needed financial relief.

As Maryland's population ages, more residents are taking on the responsibility of caring for older parents at home. These caregivers provide essential physical, emotional, and social support, often at significant personal and financial cost. Nationally, unpaid family caregiving is valued at approximately \$470 billion each year; in Maryland, this represents an estimated \$7 billion in unpaid labor.

**The Importance of SB 151**

SB 151 provides a state income tax credit to individuals who reside with and care for their elderly parents who are at least 70 years of age. This measure acknowledges the dual challenges caregivers face: managing household finances and balancing caregiving responsibilities.

Caregiving frequently requires reduced work hours, career changes, or leaving the workforce entirely. These pressures, combined with increased household expenses such as medical supplies, home modifications, and transportation, create substantial financial strain. SB 151 would help offset these costs and enable caregivers to continue providing safe, stable care at home.

Beyond supporting individual families, this legislation would have broader public benefits. Helping caregivers keep loved ones at home can reduce reliance on long-term care facilities and

lower associated costs to the state. Financial relief also helps prevent caregiver burnout, supporting better physical and mental health outcomes. In addition, strengthening family caregiving enhances intergenerational stability and allows older adults to age in place with dignity.

### **Conclusion**

SB 151 is an important recognition of the critical role family caregivers play in Maryland. We urge the committee to support this bill and provide caregivers with the relief they need and deserve.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of SB 151 and help provide financial relief to caregivers. Thank you for considering this important legislation.

For additional follow-up, please contact Sara Westrick at [swestrick@aar.org](mailto:swestrick@aar.org) or 410-310-0374.