



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 24, 2026

Bill Number: **HB 648**

Bill Title: Office of Home Energy Programs - Uniform Redetermination Process - Age

Committee: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE

The Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to submit this favorable testimony for House Bill (HB) 648 - Office of Home Energy Programs - Uniform Redetermination Process - Age.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit on Aging, administering federal and state funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides supportive services to older adults, and planning for Maryland's growing older adult population. MDOA and AAAs deliver the Maryland Access Point service, a wide-ranging single point of entry for services and options counseling for older adults, caregivers and other community members. Requests for assistance with energy and other utility costs for older adults and caregivers on limited incomes are frequently received by MAP as well as the broader aging services network in Maryland. MDOA commends the Department of Human Services for bringing this important legislation to reduce redetermination barriers for older adults utilizing these services. Passing this bill will make approximately 1,760 Maryland households with a member age 60-64 that currently receive OHEP eligible for the streamlined redetermination process. In this fiscally-constrained climate with rising energy costs for all; this is exactly the type of smart adjustment we should be making to state processes to ensure more older people continue to receive useful benefits without interruption.



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This bill 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** report for HB 648. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

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