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Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 21 – Golden Age Pass Revisions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting this consensus legislation SB 21 - *Golden Age Pass Revisions*.

This bill helps our seniors and has broad support.

I worked with and appreciated the support from the:

- *Department of Natural Resources*,
- *AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)* and
- other stakeholders.

This bill fixes the conflict between state law and DNR's current policy, as it relates to Maryland's *Golden Age Pass Program*.

The *Golden Age Pass* program can be obtained by individuals 62 years of age or older for a nominal application fee.

This provides seniors with:

1. Free entry into any Maryland State Park,
2. Half price camping, Sunday through Thursday - excluding holidays, and
3. Unlimited boat launch access at any Maryland State Park.

This bill updates our laws by:

- 1) Revising our *Maryland's Golden Pass* laws where they are in conflict with current policy, and
- 2) Revising our *Maryland's Golden Pass* laws so they match the services provided by the program.

First, the area of conflict, as it relates to discounts on camping:

Existing law only provides discounts for '*Monday through Thursday*' camping, whereas, current policy provides discounts for "*Sunday*

through Thursday' camping, thus providing our seniors with an extra day of discounts.

Secondly, this bill aligns the Maryland Golden Pass laws with the actual practice of the program in 2026.

Basically, our laws are outdated, and this bill revises them and also updates incorrect portions of the law.

There is no opposition, no fiscal impact and it is supported by DNR and our seniors.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.