



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*Baltimore Jewish  
Council*

*Catholic Charities of  
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council*

*Church of the Brethren*

*Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County*

*Lutheran Office on  
Public Policy in  
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic  
Conference*

*Mental Health  
Association of Maryland*

*Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan*

*National Association of  
Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter*

*Presbytery of Baltimore*

*The Coordinating  
Center*

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The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that support policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

**MSCAN supports HB 989.** As amended, this bill requires the Maryland Department of Aging, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, to conduct a study on whether and how income from renting part of a primary residence could be excluded when determining eligibility for certain State assistance programs. While MSCAN supported the bill as introduced, we recognize that the amended version maintains focus on an issue of growing importance to older Marylanders and provides an opportunity for further examination and policy development.

For some older Marylanders, house-sharing arrangements such as renting a spare bedroom can provide supplemental income to help meet rising housing costs, including maintenance, repairs, and property taxes. However, the modest income earned could unintentionally disqualify an older adult homeowner from programs that were created to help them remain safely housed and financially stable.

As amended, HB 989 will have the state study whether and how income from renting part of a primary residence could be excluded when determining eligibility for certain State assistance. This interagency approach will help clarify where policy change may be possible, where barriers remain, and how future action could be structured to avoid unintended consequences.

A one-time study with a required report to the General Assembly can provide valuable information to guide future legislative action. For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report for HB 989.