



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

HB 1434 - Maryland Department of Health - Caregiver Resource Webpage - Establishment
Senate Finance Committee
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FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the committee. My name is Dorinda Adams, and I serve on the Executive Council of AARP Maryland, representing more than 850,000 older adults across the state. We bring the lived experiences and priorities of Marylanders age 50-plus to the policy table. We thank Delegate McCaskill for introducing this important legislation.

As Maryland's population ages, more residents are taking on caregiving responsibilities, with 1.16 million persons, or 24% of all adults in the state, currently doing so, according to AARP's latest research.¹ These caregivers provide essential physical, emotional, and social support, often at significant personal and financial cost.

Maryland's Caregivers Need Streamlined, Accessible Information

Caregivers often navigate a maze of programs, agencies, and services. HB 1434 offers a practical, high-impact solution by creating a single, easy-to-use online hub with:

- Plain-language information
- Links to state and local programs
- Safety and privacy resources
- Supports for caregiver health and wellbeing
- Tools to help families at every stage of their caregiving journey

This bill does not create new state service obligations, but it does ensure that families can actually find the supports that already exist.

AARP Has Long Championed Caregiver Supports

AARP has advocated for caregivers at the state and national levels for decades. We consistently hear from families that their biggest challenges are information overload, fragmented systems, and not knowing where to start. HB 1434 directly responds to those challenges. By creating a centralized, easy-to-navigate webpage, Maryland can reduce the bureaucratic burden on caregivers and help families connect to the resources they deserve.

¹ [AARP Caregiving in the U.S.: Maryland Snapshot](#), published in October 2025, and uploaded as an appendix.

Caregiving in My Community

Programs and policies that support family caregiving are essential. AARP has demonstrated this priority by establishing a national pilot *Caregiving in My Community* and Maryland is one of four states participating as the initial phase of the pilot began in the spring of 2025. The pilot has been designed to identify ways to enhance and expand existing resources within local and state governments and formal and informal organizations across the state. Maryland's participation is currently in the second phase of the three-phase pilot and is demonstrating that collaboration among public and private stakeholders could enhance and expand the support needed for our family/Informal Caregivers. A flowchart of Maryland's process is included as part of this written testimony to provide additional information.

The Bill Strengthens Coordination Across Agencies

Caregiving doesn't occur in a silo, and neither should the support systems designed to help families. This coordinated approach will ensure caregivers can access comprehensive, consistent information.

This legislation is practical, low-cost, and high-impact. Creating an online, centralized resource is one of the most cost-effective ways to support caregivers. HB 1434 is thoughtful, family-centered legislation that strengthens the support system without imposing new mandates on agencies or providers.

We appreciate that HB 1434 requires MDH to coordinate with the Department of Education, the Department of Aging, the Developmental Disabilities Administration, and other relevant entities.

Conclusion

For these reasons, AARP Maryland supports HB 1434. This bill will make a meaningful difference in the lives of caregivers across the state by making information more accessible, reducing stress, and helping families focus on what truly matters, caring for the people they love.

For additional follow-up, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director at swestrick@aarp.org or 410-310-0374.