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TO: House Health Committee
FROM: LeadingAge Maryland
SUBJECT: House Bill 804, Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment
DATE: February 19, 2026
POSITION: Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland supports House Bill 804, Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund – Establishment.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 150 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Members of LeadingAge Maryland provide health care, housing, and services to more than 20,000 older persons each year.

The Maryland Department of Aging serves as a critical backbone for Maryland’s aging network. It provides leadership, coordination, and oversight for programs that support older adults in remaining independent, healthy, and connected to their communities. From nutrition services and caregiver supports to long-term services coordination and partnership development across state agencies, the Department plays an indispensable role for both older Marylanders and the providers who serve them. For organizations like ours, the Department is not only a regulator or grant administrator—it is a strategic partner in meeting the rapidly growing needs of an aging population.

House Bill 804 takes an important step toward ensuring that this mission is sustainably funded. By establishing the Aging Resilience Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund and crediting interest earnings back to the Fund, the legislation provides stability and predictability. This structure helps protect essential aging programs from year-to-year funding volatility and allows the Department to invest in personnel, partnerships, and innovative services that strengthen Maryland’s long-term care and community-based service infrastructure.

Maryland’s older adult population continues to grow, and with that growth comes increased demand for coordinated services, oversight, and strategic planning. If we expect the Department to lead effectively—whether in supporting Area Agencies on Aging, responding to

public health emergencies, strengthening workforce pipelines, or expanding community-based services—we must ensure it has reliable and sustainable funding to do so.

House Bill 804 recognizes that aging policy cannot be reactive or episodic; it must be resilient. LeadingAge Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report to ensure that the Maryland Department of Aging has the financial stability necessary to serve older adults today and in the decades ahead.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 804.