



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony - Request for Favorable Recommendation
HB 162 – Department of Aging - Maryland Access Point - Dementia-Friendly
Communities**

Greetings Chair Heather Bagnall, Vice-Chair Bonnie Cullison, and members of the Health Committee,

The **intent** of HB 162 is to **enable** and **encourage** the Maryland Department of Aging to foster the development of “Dementia Friendly Communities” throughout Maryland.

Background: After attending the Women in Government conference, I learned about the prevalence of dementia throughout the U.S., especially in Maryland. Additionally, from family, friends, and constituent concerns, there is a lack of knowledge about the resources and initiatives available.

What: A dementia-friendly community is a city, town, or village that is informed, safe, and respectful, enabling people living with dementia and their caregivers to live high-quality lives with independence, dignity, and belonging. These communities reduce stigma, foster inclusion, and provide accessible, supportive environments. Learn more **here**.

Why: Approximately 12.9% of Marylanders aged 65 and older living with dementia. Maryland has one of the highest Alzheimer's prevalence rates in the U.S. Alzheimer's is the 7th leading cause of death in Maryland. Dementia is more prevalent in women and are more likely to be caregivers.

- Baltimore City (16.6%) and Prince George's County (16.1%) have some of the highest concentration rates.
- Approximately 238,000 to 258,000 family caregivers in Maryland, many of whom are women, provide unpaid care valued at over \$7 billion.

When: Before 2030, Maryland will have over 1.3 million residents aged 65 and older.

How: Collaborate, Connect, and Coordinate with organizations with similar missions like USAging, Dementia Friendly America, Alzheimer Association, and Dementia Friend

USA. To galvanize community organizations, businesses, and other entities to support the creation of Dementia Friendly Communities.



HB 162 aligns with the mission of the Department of Aging, specifically two goals, (1) To enable older Marylanders and adults with disabilities to remain in their homes with a high quality of life for as long as they live, (2) To empower older Marylanders to stay active and healthy. Reflecting on the Department’s goals and performance, some initiative is needed to leverage existing resources in a cost-effective way.

I request a favorable recommendation for HB 162 to improve the lives of Marylanders impacted by dementia.

Cordially,

Department of Aging

MISSION

The Maryland Department of Aging will prepare for the growing population of older adults by developing innovative approaches to aging, advancing multisector collaborations, and providing equitable access to resources.

VISION

Transform institutions, systems, and norms so all older adults lead lives that are healthy, financially secure, socially connected, and purposeful.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. To enable older adult Marylanders and adults with disabilities to remain in their homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible.

Obj. 1.1 Support the provision of home and community-based services to older Marylanders.

Obj. 1.2 Implement screening tools to connect older adults and individuals with disabilities to appropriate community-based services.

Obj. 1.3 Provide integrated access to long-term care information and services through the statewide Maryland Access Point (MAP) network.

Performance Measures	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of individuals receiving Maryland Department of Aging home and community-based services	25,475	30,854	27,361	18,149	18,773	19,146	18,945
Number of people screened for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) needs and potential Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) eligibility (Using the InterRAI Level 1 Assessment Tool)	7,485	7,329	9,107	9,591	10,583	11,112	11,668
¹ Number of individuals referred by Maryland Access Point (MAP) Counselors to appropriate services to meet the individualized needs of Maryland residents	150,000	237,576	185,952	184,304	140,462	144,676	147,569
¹ Number of information and assistance contacts (in person, online, and by telephone including the statewide 1-844-MAP-LINK number) to address individualized needs	700,000	646,796	769,105	725,893	776,653	799,953	823,951
² Number of veterans participating in the federal Veterans Directed Care program	73	74	76	89	91	0	0
¹ Number of person-centered action plans developed to promote consumer choice and self-determination	3,800	1,980	3,069	11,329	12,801	13,569	14,383

Department of Aging

Goal 2. To prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of Maryland's older adults.

Obj. 2.1 To maintain effective advocacy activities for residents of long-term care facilities.

Obj. 2.2 To protect the rights of individuals facing guardianship by, when possible, identifying less restrictive measures to meet their needs.

Obj. 2.3 To protect and advocate for older adults who participate in the public guardianship program.

Performance Measures	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
¹ Complaints investigated and closed by ombudsmen in nursing homes and assisted living facilities	4,948	3,856	3,711	4,221	3,612	3,684	3,758
¹ Abuse complaints investigated and closed by ombudsmen in nursing homes and assisted living facilities	350	283	229	259	226	231	236
¹ Consultations provided by ombudsmen	7,300	14,861	16,066	10,768	9,062	9,243	9,428
Number of clients for whom MDoA and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) serve as public guardians	863	737	662	675	806	800	800
Number of cases diverted from the need of an appointment of a public guardian	440	454	532	577	518	565	575

Goal 3. To empower older Marylanders to stay active and healthy.

Obj. 3.1 Increase opportunities for older Marylanders to participate in evidence-based programs that improve their health.

Obj. 3.2 Increase opportunities for older Marylanders to receive nutritional support in community-based settings.

Performance Measures	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
¹ Number of meals served in congregate programs where people dine together in the community (in thousands)	1,852	526	90	723	864	961	991
¹ Number of meals served in home delivered meal programs (in thousands)	5,183	6,344	4,285	1,831	2,117	1,742	1,680

Department of Aging

Goal 4. To provide mobility to Marylanders of all ages (pediatric through older adults) while protecting Maryland’s environment.

Obj. 4.1 To provide durable medical equipment at no cost to all Maryland’s residents.

Obj. 4.2 To decrease durable medical equipment environmental waste.

Performance Measures	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Act.	2025 Est.	2026 Est.
Number of individuals receiving equipment from the free durable medical equipment program	N/A	N/A	566	1,263	1,790	1,969	2,163
Number of pieces of durable medical equipment distributed	N/A	N/A	1,163	2,695	4,694	5,163	5,679
Number of durable medical equipment pieces collected for reuse that was diverted from landfills	N/A	N/A	8,369	11,399	15,473	15,782	16,098
Weight of equipment collected in pounds that was diverted from landfills	N/A	N/A	249,813	277,525	303,097	309,159	315,342

NOTES

¹ 2023 data is estimated because it is reported on a federal fiscal year basis and there is a reporting delay.

² This program ended on June 20, 2024. It was transitioned to Bay Aging to increase the capacity of the program and improve service delivery for Maryland's Veterans.