



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 23, 2026

Bill Number: HB 811

Bill Title: Aging-in-Place Programs - Grants - Multigenerational Third Places (The Village Multigenerational Third Places Act)

Committee: House Health Committee

MDOA Position: Favorable

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Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this written testimony in strong support of House Bill (HB) 811 - Aging-in-Place Programs - Grants - Multigenerational Third Places (The Village Multigenerational Third Places Act).

MDOA's Aging-in-Place program currently funds three villages in Maryland. Currently these funds may be budgeted for one-time, event costs. Typically these are events like conferences, or other in-person, one-time gatherings. This legislation would codify an expansion of MDOA's current standards; that senior villages may utilize these funds for space rental and leasing costs even if they are not associated with any events. This legislation will make clear that senior villages may utilize these funds in the future for "multigenerational third places;" which are defined as community spaces, other than a personal home or workplace, that supports social connection, events, or gathering among individuals of different ages. This will give senior villages greater flexibility in their budgets and planning, which can include renting gathering spaces on a standing basis, not just in connection with events.

Providing additional access to gathering spaces, to promote social connection aligns with MDOA's Longevity Ready MD Plan. Enhancing a culture of social connection is a broad objective and promoting innovative opportunities to connect Marylanders across all ages through technology, programming, and community spaces is a specific recommendation.



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The Longevity Ready Maryland Plan framework is informed by population projections showing that Marylanders aged 60 and older will constitute roughly a quarter or more of the state's population by 2030, a trend that underscores the urgency of policy responses that help more older people live lives that are healthy, socially connected and purposeful.

Senior Villages are a model MDOA has taken steps to grow in Maryland and HB 811 is another useful step forward in that work. For these reasons, MDOA requests a favorable report for HB 811.