



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 3, 2026

Bill Number: HB 989

Bill Title: State Assistance for the Elderly - Calculation of Income

Committee: Health Committee

Position: Letter of Concern

The Maryland Department of Aging thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide this letter of concern on HB 989 - State Assistance for the Elderly - Calculation of Income.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. MDOA recently published the Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan, a 10-year roadmap for preparing Maryland for increasingly longer lives and its rapidly growing older adult population.

This legislation would task the Maryland Department of Aging with reviewing all state tax credits, housing assistance programs and medical assistance programs for any requirements that are based on income. MDOA would then communicate with the appropriate state agency that administers the tax credit, housing assistance program or medical assistance program; notifying them that those income calculations may not include income from income received from renting a portion of their home that is their primary residence. Presumably, this would include the Comptroller, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and Maryland Department of Health primarily, but possibly others.

MDOA appreciates this legislation's intent to incentivize more access to state programs, benefits, tax credits and housing options for the benefit of older people. MDOA's Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan indeed identifies the creation of more appropriate, affordable housing options for older Marylanders as a long-term priority.



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In light of current projected general fund deficits in fiscal 2027 and beyond, MDOA urges caution in passing legislation that may significantly impact the state's budget. HB 989 could reduce state revenue in the form of additional tax credits provided to residents who rent out a portion of their homes that are primary residences. State housing assistance and medical assistance programs could see additional enrollment over time, possibly exceeding available funds, creating waitlists and creating pressure for increased funding. MDOA is also deferential to the fiscal and operational impacts shared by the Maryland Departments of Health, Human Services, and Housing and Community Development, that HB 989 as drafted, could create particularly during this time of intense federally-mandated changes as a result of H.R. 1. MDOA looks forward to continuing to engage with the sponsor, state agency partners, and other key stakeholders around these important concepts. MDOA notes that some housing assistance and medical assistance programs administered by MDH, MD DHS, MD DHCD are governed by federal requirements around income eligibility that could add complexity to determining eligible programs.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183. Thank you for your consideration.