



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 31, 2026

Bill Number: **SB 860**

Bill Title: Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment

Committee: House Health Committee

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE AS AMENDED

The Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to submit this favorable as amended testimony for Senate Bill (SB) 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit on Aging, administering federal and state funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides supportive services to older adults, and planning for Maryland's growing older adult population. HB 804 would establish the new Aging Resilience Fund, a special nonlapsing fund at the Department of Aging. This new non-lapsing fund will give MDOA more flexibility in the future to receive and leverage philanthropic funding and other sources of private funding. Creating this new Fund to receive and spend funds in alignment with the Department's work going forward, beyond the major defined program areas, is sorely needed. The bill proposes important guardrails; future MDOA spending of this fund must be aligned with its mission and the work of the Department.

It is well-established that there is a strong return on investment on investing in healthy aging and that the older adult population in America is growing, particularly in Maryland. Federal and state funding supporting older people has not kept pace with steady population growth. An effective Aging Resilience Fund that ideally grows over time with outside investments will allow more older Marylanders to stay in the homes and communities they thrive in. This bill would deliver a significant, creative state achievement directly focused on



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

improving the lives of older Marylanders during a constrained budget climate by establishing this critical funding infrastructure.

This bill is in direct alignment with MDOA's Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan¹, which will provide the roadmap for MDOA to work in partnership with the General Assembly over the next 10+ years to make Maryland more prepared for our increasingly longer lives. Sustained partnerships with philanthropy are an identified priority in the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, as well as pursuing funding from other public and private sources. MDOA can absorb all work associated with this new fund with existing resources only.

MDOA appreciates the Health Committee's prior work on the House version of this legislation, HB 804, and remains supportive of the earlier amendments that were adopted for SB 860 and HB 804 which add additional protective language around the Aging Resilience Fund, so that funds may not be diverted, and new reporting requirements around funds received and spent out from the Aging Resilience Fund in the future.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a **favorable as amended** report for SB 860. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

¹ MD Department of Aging website, "Longevity Ready Maryland," *available at*: <https://lrm.maryland.gov/>