



Paving the way for a
**Longevity Ready
Maryland**

2026 Legislative Session

3 of 3

Priority Bills
Passed

100

Relevant Bills
Analyzed and
Monitored Closely

55

Pieces of Testimony
Delivered

84%

Bills that
Reached Desired
Outcome

25

Bills Passed with
MDOA Testimony

Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) Priority Bills Passed

Other Legislative Achievements

- The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman secured a new \$2 million annual appropriation to strengthen oversight and resident stability in long-term care, and tightened protections against involuntary nursing home discharges (see page 2).
- As a result of improved spending effectiveness, MDOA successfully protected critical state funding for older adults.
- Deepened relationships and awareness of older adult population growth through early in-session briefings and actively supporting LRM-aligned legislation from the Governor, sister state agencies, and private sponsors.



The Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Act:

This first-of-its-kind legislation establishes Maryland as a national leader in aging policy by permanently embedding a longevity-planning approach into the work of MDOA and across state government. The law also expands the membership and role of the Commission on Aging and mandates public transparency through common-sense reporting and regular updates to the LRM plan.

Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment:

Led by Delegate Sarah Wolek and Senator Craig Zucker, this legislation establishes a new non-lapsing special fund that will give MDOA more flexibility to receive and leverage philanthropic and other sources of private funding in alignment with the Department's work going forward—a tool that is sorely needed. The Fund has important guardrails and reporting requirements.

Multigenerational Third Places Act:

Led by Delegate Sarah Wolek and Senator Shelly Hettleman, this legislation clarifies existing law allowing senior villages and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to utilize Aging-in-Place grant funds for costs associated with the use of multigenerational places that support social connection among people of different ages. This will give Maryland's senior villages and AAAs greater flexibility to rent or lease gathering spaces on a standing basis, and not just in connection with defined events.

Key Legislation that Aligns with LRM:

Protecting Health and Essential Resources

- **The Vax Act (SB 385, HB 637)** from Governor Moore decouples Maryland's immunization, screening, and preventative health recommendations from federal bodies allowing pharmacists to continue administering critical immunizations and ensures that those vaccines remain covered by insurance.
- **The Protection From Predatory Pricing Act (SB 347, HB 895)** from Governor Moore makes Maryland the first state in the country to ban price manipulation practices driven by surveillance data. This prohibits grocers and third-party delivery service providers from using dynamic pricing, ensuring consistent and transparent costs for groceries at check-out. This will benefit older adults and caregivers on limited incomes.
- **Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations - Establishment (SB 22, HB 226, Department of Disabilities)** establishes a new affiliated foundation to fund and expand critical programs.
- **Office of Home Energy Programs – Uniform Redetermination Process – Age (HB 648, Department of Human Services)** streamlines redetermination processes to maintain smooth access to state energy assistance for older Marylanders.
- **Health – Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Provider Resource Toolkit (SB 555, HB 446, Sen. Hayes, Del. Martinez)** creates a new online resource to increase health care provider training on dementia and other cognitive health issues.

Enhancing the Quality of Long-Term Care

- **Nursing Facilities – Involuntary Discharge or Transfer (SB 493, HB 1002, Sen. Beidle, Del. Lopez)** tightens procedures around involuntary discharges from nursing homes to protect residents.

- **Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - Notification of Investigations and Establishment of the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative (HB 945, Del. Sample-Hughes)** requires the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Health Care Quality to notify local health departments when investigating an allegation of serious harm in nursing homes, and establishes a Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative involving MDOA and key stakeholders to drive focused, quality improvements in care settings.

Advancing Justice and Autonomy for Older Adults

- **Adult Protective Services – Modifications (SB 182, HB 282, Department of Human Services)** codifies essential updates to Adult Protective Services procedures to improve safety and intervention.
- **Criminal Law – Benefits Exploitation (SB 140, HB 216, Sen. West, Del. Kauffman)** strengthens criminal law to address the exploitation of government benefits (including Social Security, Medicare, and SNAP), providing new protections for older adults and vulnerable Marylanders.
- **Estates and Trusts - Jurisdiction Over Property of Minors or Disabled Persons - Authorized Transactions - (HB 1062, Dels. Embry and Taveras)** allows courts to direct specific, time-limited transactions in providing a minor or person with a disability with their financial records or eligibility for government assistance. This is an important guardianship avoidance tool.

From The Office of The Long-Term Care Ombudsman

- **Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman - Mandatory Appropriation (SB 340, HB 671, Sen. Hettleman, Dels. Shetty and Lopez)** dedicates \$2 million in annual funding for the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Funding will come from the state's medical loss ratio fund that health care organizations pay into.

Visit aging.maryland.gov/legislation for more information about MDOA's 2026 Legislative Session.