



ANNAPOLIS 2022: LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2022 was another vital legislative session for Marylanders with Alzheimer's and other dementia and their caregivers. These policy accomplishments will build awareness about dementia, improve the quality of care statewide, and help Maryland build out the infrastructure to aid residents challenged by this cruel disease.

Maryland's fiscal year 2023 budget includes dedicated funding for Alzheimer's and other dementia; the \$3.5 million commitment, championed by the General Assembly and supported by Governor Hogan, is an extraordinary step to help the over 110,000 Marylanders with dementia and their caregivers.

The Dementia Services Act of 2022 (SB 27/HB 166) is now law, after having been signed by the Governor, and with thanks to the leadership of Speaker Pro Tem Sheree Sample Hughes and Senator Malcolm Augustine. This law requires the establishment of a full-time Director of Dementia Services Coordination at the Maryland Department of Health. The position will be responsible for the coordination of services affecting Marylanders with dementia and their caregivers and families. In addition, it makes Maryland's Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council permanent.

Maryland Health Care Commission - Assisted Living Programs - Study (HB 636/SB 531), legislation from Delegate Lisa Belcastro and Senator Pamela Beidle, is now law. This requires the Maryland Healthcare Commission to conduct a study to understand how we can elevate the quality of care provided by our state's 1285 assisted living facilities with 9 or fewer beds. As we seek to learn from the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on our long-term care facilities, this study will provide recommendations to help Maryland's seniors in need.

State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators - Renaming and Licensure of Assisted Living Managers (HB 1034/SB 270), legislation from Del. Joseline Pena-Melnyk and Senator Delores Kelley, was also enacted into law. This establishes a licensing and regulatory system for assisted living managers under the Board of Long Term Care Administrators, and requires all assisted living facilities to have a licensed manager. This new law will set an important standard of care across all facilities.

Other important Alzheimer's Association priorities enacted include:

- Home and Community Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications (SB 28/HB 0080)
- Elderly Individuals - Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program and Task Force (HB 1051/SB 527)
- Maryland Health Care Commission - Primary Care Report and Work group (SB 734)
- Health Facilities - Residential Service Agencies - Reporting Requirement (SB 600/HB544)