

Maryland Jewish Advocacy

DAY & RECEPTION 2019



Nonprofits for our Aging Neighbors Act (NANA)

What is Senate Bill 279/ House Bill 251 (SB279/HB251)?

SB279/HB251, sponsored by Senator Brian Feldman and Delegate Terri Hill, would establish a fund in the Department of Aging to administer grants for nonprofit aging-in-place programs. The bill would create the fund, but would not require funding. It would be the governor's option as to how much money to put into it. The fund would be dedicated to expanding existing successful programs and spurring the development of new ideas. Nonprofit organizations would be able to apply to the Department for grants to build capacity of their existing aging-in-place programs and would be required to provide a minimum one-to-one match for the funding received from the state. Other nonprofits with innovative new ideas can also apply and would not be required to provide a match. The bill defines aging-in-place programs as ones that "enable an individual to live in the individual's own home and community safely." Additionally, the bill outlines the types of eligible vital services, including in-home personal care to assist with cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, as well as transportation to medical providers.

Why is SB279/HB251 good for Maryland?

When seniors have the freedom and support to age-in-place, they are able to live more comfortable and dignified lives – a benefit to themselves, their families and their communities. NANA will help seniors obtain quality and vital services from trusted sources, verified by nonprofits.

How does SB279/HB251 impact the Jewish community?

The Baltimore Jewish Council represents Jewish Community Services (JCS) as well Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI). These organizations provide services to the rapidly aging Baltimore community and would potentially be able to expand their capacity from this fund. Additionally, this fund could encourage smaller organizations to create new aging-in-place programs. By 2035 one in three U.S. households will be headed by someone 65 or older. The need for aging-in-place services will grow exponentially in just the next few years, and this bill helps Maryland be better prepared.

What Can Be Done?

Tell your legislators that you support *SB279/HB251*, the **Nonprofits for our Aging Neighbors Act (NANA)**. Do you know an aging senior who could, or already does, benefit from an aging-in-place program? Share their story.