



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 527

DATE: February 22, 2022

SPONSOR: Senator Feldman

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Department of Health and Human Services)

Elderly Individuals - Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program and Task Force

Senate Bill 527 establishes the Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program (the Program) in Howard County and Montgomery County to integrate the provision of medical adult day care services, home health care services, and medical services provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. The pilot, which is authorized to operate for 3.5 years, utilizes integrator entities to coordinate services provided under the program. The bill also establishes the Task Force on the Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program, which will examine the current delivery of medical adult day care services in the State, evaluate the efficacy of utilizing the integrator model, measure effects of the program, and report on its findings.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services supports Senate Bill 527 because it could increase the likelihood that seniors are able to “age in place” safely and with dignity. Montgomery County is proud to be an Age-Friendly community, a designation of the World Health Organization and AARP,¹ and as such develops Age-Friendly strategic plans that share similar goals with the Program’s potential benefits listed in the bill such as greater social interaction, transportation options, avoidance of food insecurity, and monitoring the administration of medications.² Part of the County’s Age-Friendly action plan is to reduce avoidable hospital use³ by connecting people aged 65 or older and living independently in the community to the support and services they need before their health declines through personalized plans to address specific needs, providing guidance on navigating community and other resources, and arranging services that may prevent unnecessary hospital contact. The Program created by Senate Bill 527 builds on this model to enable seniors to live at home and keep them from entering acute care settings through integrating the provision of medical adult day care, home health services and medical services. While the Program shares many goals with programs supporting seniors in Montgomery County, the Program’s focus on both Medicaid participants in a target population (Montgomery County and Howard County) and its creation of a Task Force to study outcomes create an opportunity to glean lessons about long term services and supports that the whole State can benefit from.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully asks the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 527.

¹ https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/Resources/Files/Age-Friendly_2020_beyond.pdf

² <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/Resources/Files/Domain-Group-Reports-2020.pdf>

³ <https://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-547QEK>