

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 147

(Chair, Health and Government Operations  
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Aging)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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Healthy Aging Program

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This departmental bill establishes the Healthy Aging Program within the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) and authorizes the Secretary of Aging to adopt regulations to implement the program. The bill also authorizes the Secretary to accept and use any federal or private grant funds, so long as the grant is for purposes that will benefit older adults in the State and the grant funds are accepted and accounted for in accordance with State law.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** MDOA can handle the bill's requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not directly affected. However, federal fund revenues and expenditures may increase in the out-years, to the extent that MDOA applies for and receives additional grant funds.

**Local Effect:** Local governments may benefit from additional grant funds, to the extent that MDOA applies for and receives additional grants.

**Small Business Effect:** MDOA has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The bill specifies that the purposes of the Healthy Aging Program are to:

- promote healthy aging and living by older adults at the State and local level;
- encourage aging safely at home and in the community;

- raise public awareness about healthy aging and aging safely;
- evaluate the need for improving existing healthy aging services;
- improve the quality of life and contain health care costs of older adults;
- provide competitive funding grants for specified programs and services; and
- publicly disseminate the outcomes of the grants awarded under the program.

The bill also requires that funding for the Healthy Aging Program be as provided in the State budget and authorizes the Secretary to accept money provided by other public and private sources, including federal funds, to provide grants under the program.

**Current Law/Background:** Statute only authorizes MDOA to administer specified programs. It authorizes the Secretary to accept and use State and federal funds for specified purposes related to those programs. Accordingly, MDOA advises that it is limited in the types of federal grants that it may apply for due to current law's specificity about the programs that it may operate. By expanding the Secretary's authorization to both accept and use funds, MDOA advises that it will be able to apply for additional grants and, thus, be better positioned to respond to issues facing the older adult population, which is anticipated to rise to 25% of the population by 2030.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Aging; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 26, 2017  
mm/ljm Third Reader - February 21, 2017

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## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Healthy Aging Program

BILL NUMBER: HB147

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### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

  X   WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

       WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Bill allows the Department of Aging to raise awareness about healthy aging. There is no meaningful impact to small businesses due to this bill.