

**Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee
March 8, 2018, 9:30-11:30 am
7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600, Conference Room 6C
Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Stephanie Edelstein, Jerry Morenoff, Mort Faller, Jack Sprague, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Ryan Wilson

Staff Present: Odile Brunetto

Others Present: Chris Burt (Aide to Delegate Pam Queen of District 14), Mary Ann Buckley (Exec. Dir. GROWS – Grass Roots Organization for the Well-being of Seniors)

Meeting Commenced: 9:42 am

The meeting commenced with a welcome and a brief reminder that the full Commission will meet on March 22. Members of the committee, Odile, and our guests introduced ourselves.

The committee discussed first reader legislation in the General Assembly. HB 956, which would have authorized attorney's fees and triple damages for civil actions targeting vulnerable adults, received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee. SB 427, which shortens the period for local-option property tax credits for older individuals living in homes they own, passed the Senate and has a hearing scheduled in the House Ways and Means Committee on March 20. The General Assembly's Committee reporting date (the date by which committees should report bills to the floor of their house of origin) is coming on March 13. The crossover date (the date by which legislation should pass its house of origin to the other house) for the General Assembly is March 19. The committee will continue to monitor legislation on which we have written letters of support.

The committee discussed HB 1461, the Maryland SAFE (Supporting All Families Everywhere) Act. former CoA Chair Judy Wells raised the issue with Isabelle. The committee decided not to send a letter of support at this time. The legislation seemed not to closely align with the CoA's priorities, and we only have so much capacity to write advocacy letters.

The committee discussed the County Executive's Budget, which is due on March 15. Members of the Commission will meet with County Council Members during April, when the County Council holds budget hearings. Tremayne will work to schedule CoA meetings with County Council Members. The Commission Chair has testified on behalf of the Commission at Council budget hearings in the past.

The committee discussed reaching out to other county Commissions on Aging and coordinating activities where appropriate. Mort volunteered to reach out to other commissions.

Jack raised a question as to how to get funding to require a state agency to comply with mandated reporting requirements. The governor must include funding in the operating budget proposal.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:20