

Article – State Government
Section 9–1105.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1999 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 70B – Department of Aging

4.

[(d) (1) The Secretary shall establish a “Golden Age Card” Program and provide a Golden Age Card to any resident of the State who applies to the Department for a card and who is 65 years of age or older or disabled. The Secretary shall encourage voluntary programs to provide assistance of any kind to card holders, and encourage support and participation in them by all persons. Card holders shall be entitled to any assistance granted to them by and through these voluntary programs, the laws of this State, or ordinances or resolutions of political subdivisions; however, this subsection does not require any person or organization to provide any assistance to card holders. The Secretary shall establish and charge a fee of \$1 to accompany application for a card.

(2) Before issuing a Golden Age Card to any person, the Secretary shall establish the identity of the person who applies for a card and shall ascertain that the person is eligible to receive the card. The Secretary shall adopt regulations to prevent the issuance of cards to persons not eligible to have them. Cards shall contain the signature of the card holder and any other information the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the purposes of the Golden Age Card Program. Any card that the Secretary issues may be held in perpetuity by the original card holder and may not be transferable to any other person. A person who loses his card may obtain another card from the Department upon providing the same information as was required for the issuance of the original card.

(3) A card holder may not use a Golden Age Card except to obtain a benefit to which the holder is entitled under the conditions of the offer.

(4) As used in this subsection, “disabled person” means a person who has been certified as permanently and totally disabled by an agency of this State or the United States having the function of so classifying persons.]

[(e)] (D) With respect to assisted living programs, as defined under § 19–1801 of the Health – General Article, the Secretary shall:

(1) Develop assisted living programs for the elderly, in conjunction with any public or private profit or nonprofit corporation or any State or federal agency;

(2) Make maximum use of rent and other subsidies available from federal and State sources and provide for subsidies necessary from State general funds to assist low income elderly individuals to reside in assisted living programs as an alternative to more costly, but not required, institutional care;