

The Arc Maryland brings you an updated version of our Bill Tracker at the start of every week during Maryland's Legislative Session. Legislation in this document includes items that The Arc Maryland has taken a position on and other items that we are currently monitoring. You can view the full bill text by clicking the link provided with each bill number in the leftmost column. For any questions about the Bill Tracker, please email Luc Chausse, Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at lchause@thearcmd.org. **Last Updated 2/15/21**

Bill House	Bill Senate	Title	Sponsor		Status		Position	Notes
			House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
Budget								
HB0588	SB0491	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2022)	Speaker of the House by request of the administration	Senate President by request of the administration	In House First Reading APP	In House First Reading B&T	Support	The bill appears to contain full appropriation for DDA Community Services 4%. The draft budget also includes appropriations for the Waiting List, LISS, Transitioning Youth (usual appropriation), but no new Autism Waiver slots.
HB0589	SB0493	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2021	Speaker of the House by request of the administration	Senate President by request of the administration	In House Hearing 3/3 at 1:30 PM APP	In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM B&T	No Position	
Current Positions on Bills by Topic								
Community Living & Working								
HB0612	SB0496	Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act	Speaker of the House by request of the administration	Senate President by request of the administration	In House Hearing 2/4 at 1:30 PM W&M	Passed in Senate with Amendments (47-0); Passed in House with Amendments (45-0); Passed Enrolled		There are additional adjustments being made by the Senate to provide additional support for providers and special education.
HB0056	SB0473	Labor and Employment - Leave With Pay - Bereavement Leave	Delegate Boyce	Senator Washington	In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Letter of Information	The bill requires paid bereavement leave to be provided to employees under certain circumstances. While the principal of the bill not something we take issue with, it would present an unfunded mandate and does not currently carry a provision for increase in funding for DD providers and people who self-direct to cover the additional leave expense.
HB0255		Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs - Funding	Delegates Hill, Eberson, Feldmark, Korman, and Lierman		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 PM APP		Support	Bill advanced last session, but no funding was put in the budget to support the grants.
HB0318	SB0441	Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services (Self - Direction Act)	Delegate Young	Senator Lee	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM FIN	Support with DD Coalition Testimony	Bill preserves self directed services components that are important to many people.
HB0375	SB0211	Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)	Delegate Valderrama	Senator Hayes	In House Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 1 PM FIN	Support with Amendment. Funding is a concern	The Arc supports the intention of this bill and the establishment of an insurance program that would be created to allow for paid family leave. We have concerns about the expense to DDA providers and people who self-direct, as well as some of the definitions included in the bill. Without a provision for DD Provider funding to support this new benefit, the program would amount to an unfunded mandate for both providers and staff.

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House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
	SB0064	Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19		Senator Salling		In Senate Unfavorable Report FIN; Withdrawn	Support	<u>Other nonprofits and all for-profit employers' contributions are based on two factors -- their own 'experience rating' and the state tax table for that year. The Governor's action in December will moderate contribution/tax increases based on employers' own experience ratings, that would otherwise begin in April of 2021. But regardless of employers' experience, the fact that the Trust Fund itself has been substantially depleted will require - by law - that a much higher 'tax table' apply for 2021 in order to begin replenishing the Fund. This higher table will significantly increase the costs for all contributing employers, regardless of their experience ratings - even those with no layoffs.</u> Read more here.
HB0511		Income Tax - Personal Exemption - Disabled Individuals	Delegate Valentino-Smith		In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Supports extension of tax exemption of additional 1K for people with Physical Disabilities as a natural extension of Blindness (considered a physical disability).
HB0581	SB0486	Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act)	Delegate D.E. Davis	Senator Augustine et al.	In House Hearing 2/5 at 11 AM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Oppose	Direct Support Professionals are essential and should be provided with appropriate PPE, communication, safety considerations for their working environments, and other rights. We are concerned with the overly broad nature of the bill, including definitions for who is included in the list of essential workers, what constitutes an emergency, a retroactive application of the provisions of the bill to the beginning of the state of emergency, the absence of any funding mechanism for the pay and benefits required through this bill, and other provisions that may result in increased risk to people with IDD. Individuals who self-direct would be considered essential employers under the current definition as well.
	SB0307	Labor and Employment - Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program		Senator Guzzone		In Senate Favorable Report FIN	Support	It appears this bill WOULD include DD Provider Staff as Direct Support Professionals. Support with coalition testimony
HB0786		Department of Human Services, Maryland Department of Health, and Department of Education - Easing Access to Family Support Programs	Delegate Kaiser		In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM APP		Support	Parents currently have to navigate a maze of applications and eligibility and this initiative would endeavor to create a one stop shop for families to obtain needed benefits and services.
	SB0388	Vehicle Registration - Disability Plates - Parking Meter Fees		Senator Cassilly		In Senate Hearing 2/10 at 1 PM JPR	Support	Would make it so that people with disability plates would not have to pay parking meter fees regardless of whether spaces are accessible

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HB0906	SB0814	Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19	Delegate Carey	Senator Klausmeier	In House Hearing 2/23 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM FIN	Support	Many of The Arc providers self-insure for their unemployment insurance, and some had to downsize during the pandemic (transportation and day program components primarily) due to lack of work for those employees. The experience rating for them is going to be higher, plus the experience rating for the state (which is aggregated and spread) is likely to increase up to 5X what it is now without this legislation. The legislation synopsis: Requiring, except under certain circumstances, the Secretary of Labor to waive the charges of unemployment insurance benefits against the earned rating record of an employing unit for claims filed during a certain period of time that the Secretary determines to be related to COVID-19; authorizing the Secretary to charge certain unemployment insurance benefits against the earned rating record of an employing unit due to certain conduct related to separation notices; and terminating the Act at the end of June 30, 2025.
	SB0610	Lodging Establishments - Accessible Rooms for Individuals With Disabilities - Deadlines		Senator Cassilly		In Senate Hearing 2/25 at 1 PM FIN	Oppose	The sponsor is asking to move the timeline for law compliance back. Given that the bill already provides a fair runway for changes, we oppose an extension to that timeline change.
Education & Childcare								
HB0059	SB0147	Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health Conditions	Delegate Pena-Melniky	Senator Feldmark	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM APP	In Senate Hearing 1/20 at 11 AM EHEA	Support with Sponsor Amendment	The sponsor's vision is a Maryland where all students striving for a higher education degree suffering from chronic conditions have the support they need to be successful. This bill will establish a task force to recommend best practices and legislation to best protect this population of students. In the bill as amended, a chronic health condition will be re-defined as a physical, DEVELOPMENTAL, behavioral, or emotional condition.
HB0097	SB0066	Department of Housing and Community Development - Office of Digital Inclusion - Established (Digital Connectivity Act of 2021)	Delegate Lierman et al.	Senator Elfreth et al.	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	There has been a great inability for children to access virtual education due to gaps in service and income. This needs to be addressed for equity in access. This bill would establish an Office of Digital Inclusion in the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that every resident of the State is supported by high-quality broadband Internet service at an affordable price and has the tools necessary to use and take advantage of the Internet.
HB0155	SB0098	County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition	Delegate Wilkins	Senator McCray	In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 11 AM JPR	Support with Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony	Would create protections against discrimination of children with disabilities in policies related to admissions and educational services.
HB0171		State Department of Education - School Discipline - Data Collection	Delegate Washington		Passed In House (130-6); In Senate First Reading EHEA		Support	Requires desegregated data on discipline separated by race, grade level, ethnicity, special services (including special education) and disciplinary practices employed.

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HB0143	SB0218	Maryland Child Tax Credit	Delegate Palakovich Carr	Senator King	In House Hearing 1/14 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM B&T	Support	This would allow certain taxpayers to claim a credit against the state income tax for certain dependent children under certain circumstances; defining a qualified dependent as a child that is under the age of 6 years OR is under the age of 17 years and is a child with a disability.
HB0237	SB0126	State Department of Education - Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices - Guidance and Assistance	Delegate Ebersole	Senators Hester and Zucker	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Support with Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony	
HB0273	SB0266	Education - Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program	Delegate Turner	Senators Patterson and Benson	In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Oppose	The bill would create a “voluntary ethical special education advocate certificate program.” The purpose of the bill is unclear. “Advocate” is not defined, and it is not clear who the bill is intended to encompass. Second, the bill would allow “advocates” who complete a webinar or online training module to obtain a certificate of completion, but the content and length of the webinar or module are not specified. There is no reason to assume that a person who completes the webinar or training module would, by virtue of having received a certificate of completion, have reached any particular level of achievement or would automatically be an “ethical special education advocate.” Third, because the program is voluntary, there is no guarantee that “advocates” who may be in need of the training envisioned by the bill sponsors would avail themselves of it. The bill is vague and would have no practical meaning if enacted. In fact, the bill might have the unintended consequence of leading people to believe that an advocate who possesses a certificate of completion of the program is more qualified than he or she actually is.
HB0370	SB0225	Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)	Delegate Kerr	Senators Young and Feldman	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/20 at 3 PM EHEA	Support	Would require training of all school personnel including bus drivers on seizures and select staff would be trained to provide emergency first aid to students experiencing seizures.
HB0392		Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening and Assistance	Delegate Guyton		In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments		Support	This is a repeat bill from last session that would increase childhood screening for early identification and intervention.
HB0405		Special Education - Judicial Actions - Attorney's Fees and Related Costs	Delegate Lopez		In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	This bill would create a mechanism for judges to award expert witness fee recovery to parents when they are the prevailing party in a Special Ed case. The law currently allows for the award of attorney's fees to prevailing parents, but families have the burden of assuming expert witness expenses and many families cannot afford the expense of having expert witnesses while the school system regularly brings experts in at state taxpayer expense.
HB0496		Primary and Secondary Education - Mental Health Services - Expansion (Counselors Not Cops Act)	Delegate Wilkins		In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM W&M		Letter of Information	The Arc supports that SROs should be limited in schools, not be involved in school discipline, and that any enhancements to funding for supportive personnel be directed at providing additional counseling staff.

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HB0724	SB0209	Special Education - Prolonged School Closure - Extension of Education Services	Delegate Guyton	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/12 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Support	This bill would require a county board of education to offer and provide to certain disabled and special education students (whose schools are subject to a prolonged school closure) the option to continue attending school or receiving education services after the student's anticipated graduation date. Furthermore, the bill would require a county board to provide a notice to the parents or guardians of eligible students about a student's option to continue attending school or receiving certain education services.
HB0714	SB0300	Special Education - Learning Continuity Plan - Requirement	Delegate Guyton	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Support	This bill would require an individualized education program or 504 Plan to include a learning continuity portion to be developed by the team, including the parents of the child as equal partners to the process. The component of the plan would be developed by the members of the child's IEP or 504 plan team at the time of the plan review and serve as a guide to ensure continuity of services and supports needed by the student to continue to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) during emergency conditions - when the child is unable to access the school building for 10 days or more. This bill would become effective on October 1, 2021.
HB0716	SB0371	Special Education - Individualized Education Programs - Educational Evaluations	Delegate Griffith	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM EHEA	Support	This bill would create a mechanism for parents to obtain an evaluation paid for by the school in cases where the school has not provided the evaluation within prescribed timeframes. This has been critical for families during the pandemic as they have not been able to have their children evaluated or re-evaluated for education access supports.
HB0522		Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Prohibited Conduct	Delegate Washington		In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	This bill would prevent school administration from directing a school resource officer (SRO) to enforce discipline-related school policies, rules, regulations or procedures and would also prevent an SRO from intervening to enforce discipline.
HB0547	SB0485	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams	Delegate R. Lewis	Senator Augustine	In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM FIN	Support	Expands payment to allow for more frequent cleaning appointments as indicated to be needed by dentists.
HB0621		Prince George's County - Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act) PG 504-21	PG County Delegation		In House Hearing 2/5 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	It is well established that children benefit from daily physical activity and there are profound benefits for children with sensory needs who, when allowed to jump and swing (proprioceptive), are more ready to learn after these activities.
HB0765		Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - Novel Coronavirus (Essential Workers' Compensation Act)	Delegate Terrasa		In House Hearing 3/2 at 1:30 PM EMC		Oppose	The bill states that employees of certain industries who contract Coronavirus will be presumed to have contracted the virus on the job. We know that COVID is unusually high on the transmission scale, and many people contract the virus through the course of every day life, despite wearing masks and taking other precautions. It would be a mistake to make the assumption that an employee who has COVID contracted it at work when they could have contracted the virus at the grocery store or other place.

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HB0914		Education - Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students - Report	Delegate Bhandari		In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM W&M		Letter of Information	Would be a good initiative. We hope that one determination will be that Peyton's Law, passed in 2017, will have an annual appropriation for the Home and Hospital Program.
HB0939		Education - Student Education Grant Program - Established	Delegate Arikan		In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM W&M		Oppose	Private Schools don't have to honor the extra support students may need through an IEP. Unless they commit to following the IDEA and ensure admissions applications and protocols do not discriminate against children with IEPs who need additional support, they should not be able to access these grants.
HB0998		County Boards of Education - In-Person Instruction and Related Services - Requirement	Delegate Griffith		In House Hearing 2/24 at 1:30 PM W&M		Letter of Information	Requiring, notwithstanding any law, regulation, or executive order to the contrary, each county board of education, for the 2021-2022 school year, to require school buildings to be open each school day to provide in-person instruction and related services, including services such as speech-language pathology services, counseling, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, to certain students; requiring each county board to provide instruction and related services to certain students in person except under certain circumstances; etc.
HB1166		Education - Physical Restraint and Seclusion - Requirements, Reporting, and Training	Delegate Ebersole		In House Hearing 2/24 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Prohibiting a public agency or nonpublic school from using a physical restraint on a student as a behavioral health intervention, except under certain circumstances; prohibiting a public agency or nonpublic school from using seclusion as a behavioral health intervention for a student, except under certain circumstances; requiring a certain risk assessment to be completed at certain points for a student who has an individualized education plan and experiences a seclusion; etc.
Health Care								
	SB0096	Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities - Safety and Community Relations Plans		Senator McCray		Passed in Senate with Amendments (47-0); In House First Reading HGO	Letter of Information	While the safety plan component of the bill is a positive development, the community communication plan is concerning. People with disabilities have the right to access the community and be in and of the community with preservation of privacy. NIMBY is a going concern, and it is possible this bill would fan that fire.
HB0368	SB0100	Task Force on Oral Health in Maryland	Delegate Bangall	Senator Kelley	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	In Senate Favorable with Amendments Report FIN	Support with Coalition Testimony	Creates a task force to look at equity in access to dental care.
HB0463	SB0172	Maryland Health Equity Resource Act	Delegate Barron	Senator Hayes et al.	In House Hearing 2/2 at 3:45 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM B&T	Support	Support with Maryland Health Care Coalition
HB0123	SB0003	Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021	Delegates Pena-Melniky, Lewis, Stein, and Wilson	Senator Griffith et al.	In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM FIN	Support	Telehealth has been critical for people with disabilities and the ability of providers in our system to support people through this virtual mechanism has been important for continuity of services and supports.
HB0548	SB0299	Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training	Delegate R. Lewis	Senator Carter	In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Support	This bill would create a Trauma Informed Care Commission.

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HB036	SB0546	School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)	Delegate Solomon	Senator McCray	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM E&T	In Senate Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	Altering the definition of "elevated level of lead" for purposes of certain provisions of law requiring the periodic testing for the presence of lead in drinking water outlets in occupied public and nonpublic school buildings. Lead posing causes I/DD in some children.
Justice and Civil Rights								
HB0069		Environment - Single-Use Plastics - Restrictions	Delegate Love		In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM EMC		Support with DD Coalition Testimony	Contains changes that we requested to allow for people with disabilities to obtain straws upon request and training/outreach.
HB0090	SB0687	State and Local Housing Programs - Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing	Delegate Lierman	Senator Smith	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM E&T	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	Creates opportunity to track waiting lists and ensure there is adequate fair housing stock for people with very low income and accessible housing needs.
HB0153		Election Law- Voting by Mail	Delegates Ivey and Henson		In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Improves access to exercising voting rights for people with disabilities.
HB0203	SB0519	Estates and Trusts - Wills and Advance Medical Directives - Notaries Public	Delegate C. Jackson	Senator Klausmeier	In House Hearing 2/4 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM JPR	Oppose with Coalition Testimony	Would create another barrier to People with IDD to name a healthcare decision maker without having to locate a notary and prove capacity.
HB0234	SB0607	Criminal Law - Harm to Service Animals	Delegate Williams	Senator Jackson	In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/17 at 1 PM JPR	Support	Protects service animals from harm by imposing severe penalties on those who harm or kill a service animal.
HB0245		Election Judges - Training and Signs - Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance	Delegate Hill		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Improves access to exercising voting rights for people with disabilities.
HB0247		Election Law - Voting Order Priority - Individuals Who Need Extra Assistance	Delegate Guyton		In House Favorable with Amendments Report W&M		Support	Allows people with disabilities and parents of small children with disabilities to advance in the voting line. It's considered a reasonable accommodation given the many issues people have had in the past with accessing voting places.
HB0321	SB0061	Public Buildings - Changing Facilities - Requirements	Delegate Ebersole	Senator Lam	Passed In House (130-6); In Senate First Reading JPR	In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 11 AM JPR	Support	This bill creates a requirement for newly constructed or extensively remodeled public buildings to provide changing stations suitable to hold the weight of an adult.
HB0347		Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence	Delegate Shetty		Passed In House (131-4); In Senate First Reading JPR		Support	<p>WHY is this legislation important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a fact that some adults with disabilities are vulnerable and at risk of a range of exploitative or coercive behaviors including financial, physical or emotional abuse. The Attorney's General office notes that abuses against vulnerable adults are escalating in our communities. Even more troubling is that for every case of abuse that is reported to authorities, experts estimate that as many as five cases go unreported. Those who are elderly, or have significant support needs are at an increased risk of losing their assets to those exerting undue influence on them. <p>This legislation redefines the term "undue influence" and adds factors the court must consider when determining whether property was obtained from a person with disabilities by undue influence.</p>

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HB0315	SB0136	Juvenile Law - Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act	Delegate Bartlett et al.	Senator Carter	In House Hearing 2/4 at 1:20 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/4 at 11 AM JPR	Support	<p>Often, children who become entangled in the legal justice system are questioned by law enforcement without a parent or attorney present. As a result, they face criminal charges, prosecution, and incarceration often without the basic due process rights to which adults are entitled.</p> <p>Without consideration for the due process rights of children, and supports to ensure these rights are upheld, our current system presents dangers for all children and particularly children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who may lack awareness of the severity of their situation. Some children with disabilities may experience dysregulation of their emotions or have adverse reactions to their environment, causing them to become disruptive or even aggressive. In these situations, trauma-informed and restorative practices/positive behavioral interventions are the keys to safe and effective incident resolution, but we have only just begun to see these practices used in our schools. Students with disabilities, therefore, remain vulnerable to disciplinary responses from schools, and police involvement in incidents.</p>
HB0423	SB0271	Election Law - Voting Systems - Accessibility for Voters With Disabilities	Delegate Feldmark		In House Hearing 2/2 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 11 AM EHEA	Support with DD Coalition Testimony	<p>This bill would require each voter to use a ballot marking device that is accessible to voters with disabilities to vote at early voting centers and election day polling places to ensure that access is provided to voters with disabilities in accordance with a certain provision of law; prohibiting certain ballots from being set apart or distinguishable, in size and form, to ensure that access is provided to voters with disabilities in accordance with a certain provision of law; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to voting systems and accessibility for voters with disabilities.</p>
HB0493		Election Law - Voting Locations - Accessibility by Public Transportation and Voters With Disabilities	Delegate Guyton		In House Hearing 2/2 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	<p>Would require that absentee ballot boxes be accessible by a person using a wheelchair and that County Boards place priority of voting locations to those within 500 feet of public transportation.</p>
	SB0327	Civil Actions - Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults (Maryland SAFE Act)		Senator Waldstreicher		In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM JPR	Support with DD Coalition Testimony	<p>Creates civil penalties for those who financially exploit people with disabilities.</p>
HB0338		Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training	Delegate Ebersole		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 PM EMC		Support with Amendment	<p>We want to make sure training includes data on victimization and trafficking of people with disabilities so innkeepers can identify possible victimization.</p>
HB0500		Police Procedures - Requiring a Person to Lie Prone	Delegate Rosenberg		In House Hearing 2/12 at 1:30 PM JUD		Letter of Information	<p>Some people with certain disabilities such as Down Syndrome are at dramatically increased risk of injury or death if they are restrained in a prone position. The way in which this bill is written however may not accomplish the intention of the sponsor and we will be having conversations to strengthen the language.</p>

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HB0508	SB0210	COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity	Delegate Attar	Senators West, Carozza, Hester, and Peters	In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 1/26 at 1 PM JPR	Letter of Information	Would provide immunity for providers and potentially people who self direct from civil liability for claims from people that they contracted COVID in the line of duty. This bill also has other implications for people with disabilities who may have been the victim of improper treatment, and who wish to exercise their rights for remedy- If this bill should pass as broadly written, they would be denied this right and that is something The Arc Maryland cannot support.
HB0656		Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Accessibility by Public Transportation	Delegate Crosby		In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	There is a significant portion of the population of people with disabilities who rely on public transportation. We support the requirement that a percentage of early voting centers be located within a short distance of public transportation stops.
HB0917		Corrections - Restrictive Housing - Prohibition	Delegate Amprey		In House Hearing 3/2 at 1:30 PM JUD		Support	Part of restrictive housing reform to account for the needs of individuals with I/DD and individuals with mental health conditions.
HB1000		Estates and Trusts - Guardian of Property of Minor or Disabled Person - Prohibition on Distribution or Disbursement	Delegate Pippy		In House Hearing 2/24 at 1:30 PM JUD		Support	Prohibiting a guardian of the property of a minor or disabled person from distributing or disbursing property of the minor or disabled person without court authorization or confirmation if the guardian is not a family member of the minor or disabled person under certain circumstances; providing that, if a guardian of the property violates the Act, the guardian is liable for breach of the guardian's fiduciary duty to certain persons to the same extent as a trustee of an express trust; etc.

Bills We Are Monitoring or Evaluating by Topic

Community Living & Working								
HB0055		Immunities - Associations, Organizations, and Charities - Liability of Agents and Volunteers	Delegate Crosby		In House Hearing 1/15 at 1:30 JUD		Evaluating	The bill could provide protections via continued insurance coverages for DDA providers from organizational liability due to the unforeseen behavior of a volunteer
HB0124		Occupational Safety and Health Standards to Protect Employees - Aerosol Transmissible Diseases and COVID-19	Delegate Valderama		In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM EMC		Evaluating for Possible LOI	Defines employer as having one employee so it would impact people who self direct and are employer of record.
HB0141	SB0275	Maryland Department of Health - Residential Service Agencies - Training Requirements	Delegate Sample-Hughes	Senators Hester and Hayes	In House Hearing 1/19 at 2 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/4 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	The bill requires residential service agencies to ensure staff receive training on dementia and related conditions within 45 days of hire. At this time, it does not appear that DDA residential service agencies are included in the definition, but that could change and so we will monitor.
HB0350		Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Verification	Delegate Adams	Senators Hester and Hayes	In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM EMC		Evaluating for Possible LOI or Oppose	Prohibits employers from requiring certain documentation for to or after confirming eligibility for paid absences of employees.

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Bill		Title	Sponsor		Status		Position	Notes
House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
HB0718		State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs - Mandated Appropriation	Delegate Guyton		In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM APP		Evaluating for Support or Letter of Information	The law to create this position is currently in place (passed last year) but there has been no appropriation to support this position. This bill requires an annual appropriation
HB0908	SB0816	Unemployment Insurance - Employer Contributions - Payment Plans	Delegate Carey	Senator Klausmeier	In House Hearing 2/23 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	Would allow employers to spread out their payments over different and longer periods of time if funding was tight.
HB1002		Unemployment Insurance - Revisions and Required Study	Delegate Charkoudian		In House Hearing 2/23 at 1:30 PM EMC		Monitoring	Part of the bill provides relief for organizations against the Unemployment employer rating so that unemployment claims filed will not impact the employers rating for a period of time.
HB1105		Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Charging of Benefits	Delegate Wivell		In House Hearing 1/23 at 1:30 PM EMC		Evaluating for Support	Prohibiting the Secretary of Labor from charging unemployment insurance benefits against the earned rating record of an employing unit if, through no fault of the employing unit, the claimant is unemployed due to an official order for the employing unit to shut down that is issued by the Governor, the chief executive officer of a county, the governing body of a county or municipal corporation, or a unit or instrumentality of the State or a political subdivision.
HB1126		Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19	Delegate Beitzel		In House Hearing 2/23 at 1:30 PM EMC		Monitoring for Support	Authorizing the Secretary of Labor to waive the charging of unemployment insurance benefits paid to a claimant against the earned rating record of an employing unit during a state of emergency declared by the Governor due to COVID-19 under certain circumstances; providing that the required waiver of benefit charges is in effect only until the earlier of 4 months after a certain state of emergency has ended or the date the employing unit hires a certain workforce; etc.
HB1171		Labor and Employment - Maryland Employee Protection Plan for Vaccine Refusal	Delegate Charles		In House Hearing 3/9 at 1:30 PM EMC		Monitoring	Prohibiting an employer from terminating an employee solely on the basis of the employee's refusal to receive a vaccination against COVID-19; specifying that an employee waives the right to file a civil action against the employer if the employee refuses to receive a certain vaccination and the employee contracts COVID-19 in the course of employment; etc.
HB1199	SB0813	Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - COVID-19	Delegate Valdderrama	Senator Klausmeier	In House Hearing 3/2 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	Providing that certain covered employees who are suffering from the effects of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 are presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty or course of employment and is compensable in a certain manner; requiring an individual who is eligible for certain benefits to provide a copy of the positive test or the written documentation confirming the diagnosis to the employer or insurer; etc.
HB1247	SB0725	Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - COVID-19	Delegate Washington	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 3/2 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	Providing that certain covered employees who are suffering from the effects of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 are presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty or course of employment and is compensable in a certain manner.

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House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
HB1258		Health Enterprise Zones - Established (Restoring the Promise Act of 2021)	Delegate Kipke		In House Hearing 3/2 at 1:30 PM HGO		Evaluating	
HB1326	SB0727	Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave	Delegate Dumais	Senator Feldman	In House Hearing 3/2 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
	SB0756	Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - COVID-19		Senator Carter		In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	Providing that certain covered employees who are suffering from the effects of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 are presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty or course of employment and is compensable in a certain manner; requiring an individual who is eligible for benefits under certain provisions of the Act to provide a copy of a certain test or written documentation to the employer or insurer; applying the Act retroactively; etc.

Education & Childcare

HB0027		Education - Reporting Arrests of Students - Alterations	Delegate Long		In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM JUD		Monitoring	Specifically mentions non-public schools. Monitoring to see if it has implications for people with I/DD.
HB0342		Education - Health and Safety of Students - Notification of Problematic Student Behavior	Delegate Wilson		In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating	
HB0266		Student Education Equity Grant Program - Established (Student Education Equity in Funding Act)	Delegate Cox		In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating	May be problematic if it requires appropriation to more BOOST slots as there are no protections yet in admissions policies for discrimination against children who have disabilities.
HB0713	SB0409	County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools	Delegate Guyton	Senator Kramer	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM EHEA	Evaluating	Although The Arc recognizes the importance of support animals, the bill is vague on exactly what the cost of this program would be and whether it would deflect from other priorities and funding. Also does not state how children with severe pet allergies would be accommodated
HB0651	SB0464	Education - Educational Interpreter - Certification Requirements	Delegate Qi	Senator West	In House Hearing 2/5 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM EHEA	Monitoring	Only concern is with possible unintended consequence of creating a shortage of certified interpreters. Without additional provisions to create more funding for trainers and campaigns to bring people into the field.
HB0715	SB0665	Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices	Delegate Guyton	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM EHEA	Evaluating	
HB0764		Education - Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program - Established and Mandated Funding	Delegate Kittleman		In House Unfavorable Report W&M; Withdrawn		Evaluating for Opposition	Not sure there are protections against admissions policies that could discriminate against students with disabilities.
HB1089		Primary and Secondary Education - Expansion of Mental Health Services and Prohibition of School Resource Officers (Police-Free Schools Act)	Delegate Acevero		In House First Reading W&M		Evaluating	Repealing certain provisions of law relating to the establishment of the Baltimore City School Police Force; prohibiting a local school system from contracting with certain law enforcement agencies for a certain purpose; prohibiting a local school system from establishing its own police force; altering certain functions and duties of the Maryland Center for School Safety to require the Center to analyze certain data, to certify certain law enforcement coverage, and to submit a certain report; etc.

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House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
HB1181	SB0921	County Boards of Education - Accessibility Standards - Digital Tools (Nonvisual Access Accountability Act for Grades K-12 Education)	Delegate Guyton	Senator Lam	In House First Reading W&M	In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM EHEA	Evaluating for Support	Requiring digital tools developed or purchased by a county board of education to include specifications for access by students with disabilities, including nonvisual access; requiring a county board to provide a student with disabilities access to digital tools that enable students with disabilities to acquire the same information and access the same services as students without disabilities; requiring each invitation for bids or request for proposals for a digital tool to require submission of an accessibility conformance report; etc.
HB1296		Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)	Delegate Walker		In House First Reading W&M		Evaluating	
Health Care								
HB0078	SB0052	Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)	Delegates Pena-Melnyk, Lewis, Crutchfield, Wilkins, and Williams	Senator Washington	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
HB0393	SB0012	Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Health	Delegates Barron, Crutchfield, and Pena-Melnyk	Senator Hettelman	Passed In House (130-6); In Senate First Reading FIN	Passed in Senate (47-0);	Evaluating	Removes this office from under DOH and makes it independent.
	SB0322	Health - Health and Wellness Standards - Correctional Facilities and Health Care Facilities		Senator Benson		In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
HB0028	SB0005	Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities	Delegates Pena-Melnyk and Lewis	Senators Griffith, Benson, Ellis, Kelley, Washington, and West	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	Does not specifically mention disabilities as a minority group who has been impacted by implicit bias.
HB0276		Congregate Care Facilities - Visitation	Delegate Henson		In House Hearing 2/2 at 3:45 PM HGO		Monitoring	Recognize importance of visitation. Concern is not with that as this has been an advocacy point, but want to make sure there are considerations for visitation during public health emergencies.
HB0537	SB0398	Mental Health Law - Petitions for Emergency Evaluation - Procedures	Delegate Ruth	Senator Carter	In House Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	
HB0551	SB0393	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services	Delegate Bagnall	Senator Augustine	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
HB0598	SB0469	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Applied Behavior Analysis Services - Reimbursement	Delegate Kelly	Senator Washington	In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/10 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
HB0652	SB0384	Health Facilities - Residential Service Agencies - Guidance and Reporting	Delegate Qi	Senator Kelley	In House Hearing 2/18 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	

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House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
HB0673	SB0542	State Health Care Facilities - Employees - Alternative Workweeks	Delegate Valentino-Smith	Senator Eckardt	In House Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	Does not appear to include DD facilities, but rather state operated institutions.
HB1033	SB0707	Office of Health Care Quality - Influenza Virus Immunization Education and Information - Assisted Living Facilities	Delegate Cullison	Senator Feldman	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/25 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	Related to ensuring people have information and access to vaccines if they reside in assisted living OR "related institutions." This would be good, but there is no appropriation included to cover the costs of requiring DD agencies to provide the vaccines. Right now, people typically get the annual vaccine for the flu through their primary care physicians' and insurance covers.
Justice and Civil Rights								
	SB0245	Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Requirements and Prohibitions		Senator Ellis		In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Evaluating	
HB0132	SB0041	Health - Mental and Emotional Disorders - Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)	Delegate Bagnall	Senator Augustine	In House Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Favorable Report from FIN	Evaluating	
HB0227	SB0363	Courts - Improperly Summoning a Police Officer - Civil Liability	Delegate Charles	Senator McCray	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM JPR	Evaluating	Some people, due to the nature of their disability, summon police officers out of fear or an attempt to communicate. While other tools and methods to communicate are being explored with the individual, we would not want the individual to be fined when matters such as this arise.
HB0238		Criminal Procedure - Automatic Expungement	Delegate Wells		In House Hearing 2/23 at 1:30 PM JUD		Evaluating	Have concerns as even seemingly minor convictions for theft of small amounts for example would have implications for vulnerable adults. May support an amendment to change auto expungement to auto shielding for all employers except our industry for protection.
HB1020		Election Law - Curbside Voting - Establishment	Delegate Williams		In House Hearing 3/9 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating for Support	Providing that voters are eligible for curbside voting under certain circumstances; requiring that curbside voting be made available to all registered voters with disabilities recognized under a certain federal law; requiring each local board of elections to establish a location outside each polling place for curbside voting; requiring that a curbside voting location meet certain requirements; requiring that an election judge give a certain voter a paper ballot or, under certain circumstances, a handheld voting device; etc.
HB1106		Civil Actions - Immunity From Liability - COVID-19 Exposure	Delegate Wivell		In House Hearing 3/3 at 1:30 PM JUD		Evaluating	Providing that an owner, lessee, or tenant of a premises is immune from civil liability for injury or death relating to the exposure of others on the premises to COVID-19 so long as the owner, lessee, or tenant, or an agent of the owner, lessee, or tenant, was following and enforcing local, State, and federal guidelines in effect at the time of the exposure or alleged exposure; and providing for the retroactive application of the Act.
HB1122	SB0776	Criminal Procedure - Out of Court Statements - Child and Vulnerable Adult Victims	Delegate Crutchfield	Senator Lee	In House First Reading JUD	In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 12 PM JPR	Evaluating	Authorizing the court to admit into evidence in certain criminal proceedings certain out of court statements made by a child victim or vulnerable adult victim subject to certain requirements.

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House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
HB1216		Human Relations - Public Accommodation Discrimination - Enforcement and Remedies	Delegate Rosenberg		In House Hearing 3/17 at 1:30 PM HGO		Evaluating for Possible Support	Authorizing complainants, respondents, and the Commission on Civil Rights to elect to have claims of public accommodation discrimination determined in a civil action brought by the Commission under certain circumstances and subject to certain requirements; requiring the remedy for public accommodation discrimination to include the greater of certain damages; authorizing the remedy for public accommodation discrimination to include certain remedies; etc.
HB1281	SB0844	Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study	Delegate W. Fisher	Senator Benson	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM JPR	Evaluating	

To find contact information for Legislators click each link below:			House Committees - click each for details	Senate Committees - click each for details				
Senators			APP - Appropriations Committee	B&T - Budget and Taxation Committee				
Delegates			EMC - Economic Matters Committee	EHEA - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee				
			E&T - Environment and Transportation Committee	FIN - Finance Committee				
			HGO - Health and Government Operations Committee	JPR - Judicial Proceedings Committee				
			JUD - Judiciary Committee	EXN - Executive Nominations Committee				
			W&M - Ways and Means Committee	SRU - Rules Committee				
Find livestreams of hearings throughout session, at the link here. Sort through dates and committees to find livestream links corresponding bills.								

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House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
					HRU - Rules and Executive Nominations Committee			