

2020 Annapolis Insider Bill Tracker

Bill		Title	Primary Sponsor	Status		Position	Notes	Amendments	
House	Senate			House	Senate			House	Senate
Budget									
HB0150	SB0190	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2021)	Speaker of the House/ Senate President by request of the administration	In House First Reading APP	In Senate First Reading B&T	The Budget includes the 4% mandated increase for DDA Community Services but the BRFA removes funding to make the increase only 2%. At 2%, the medicaid-funded (DDA) Community Services programs will not have enough in funding to cover the growing minimum wage in the state.	See page 68 of either document for Developmental Disabilities Administration Budget.		
HB0152	SB0192	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2020	Speaker of the House/ Senate President by request of the administration	In House Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM APP	In Senate Hearing 2/26 1 PM B&T	The Budget includes the 4% mandated increase for DDA Community Services but the BRFA removes funding to make the increase only 2%. At 2%, the medicaid-funded (DDA) Community Services programs will not have enough in funding to cover the growing minimum wage in the state.	See page 16 of SB0192 for Community Provider Rates.		
Current Positions on Bills by Topic									
Community Living & Working									
HB0010	SB0044	Public Buildings - Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers	Delegate Ebersole/ Senator Lam	Passed in House with Amendments (132-0); In Senate First Reading JPR	In Senate Hearing 1/16 at 3 PM 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. Two amendments were adopted in committee: 1) move the responsibility for managing and maintaining the list of facilities to the dept responsible for 211, 2) delay the effective date of the law change by 1 year to allow for the DGS to develop standards and to account for plans and permits already in significant process.	From HGO	
	SB0040	Sales and Use Tax - Diapers Exemption	Senator Lam		In Senate Hearing 1/9 at 2 PM B&T	Support	Sen. Lam added clarifying language that adult absorbant products such as Depends are intended to be included in the list of products that are exempt from state sales tax.		
	SB0065	Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools	Senator Ellis		In Senate Unfavorable Report EHEA	Letter of Information	The Arc Maryland is requesting that the sponsor include clarifying language that sidewalks and crosswalks meet ADA accessibility standards.		
HB0771	SB0158	Lodging Establishments - Accessible Rooms for Individuals With Disabilities - Bed Height	Delegate Reilly et al/ Senator Cassilly	In House Favorable with Amendments Report EMC	Passed in Senate with Amendments (47-0); In House First Reading EMC	Support	This legislation would require that lodging establishments ensure that beds of an accessible height be available to people who use wheelchairs to transfer in and out of with ease.	From FIN	
HB0203		Community Parks and Playgrounds Program - Baltimore County and Howard County - Expansion	Delegate Hettleman et al	In House Unfavorable Report E&T		Support with amendment	Presenting Amendment to require that a percentage of these playgrounds must be accessible		
HB0209	SB0313	Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act	Delegate Lierman et al/ Senator Augustine et al	In House Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM E&T	In Senate Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM FIN	Letter of Information.	The bill creates a mandate for a 10 cent charge on plastic bags and creates a workgroup to make recommendations on the reduction of single use plastics. There is currently not a member suggested for that work group who would represent the interests of the disability community. Given our interest in ensuring the limited availability of plastic straws for those who need them for nutrition and hydration, we will be speaking with the sponsors.		
HB0231	SB0530	Housing Opportunities Made Equal Act	Delegate Lierman et al/ Senator Smith et al	In House Favorable with Amendments Report E&T	Passed in Senate (34-12); In House First Reading E&T	Support with coalition testimony	The bill prevents source of income discrimination and other forms of discrimination that create barriers to housing acquisition and maintenance.	From JPR	
HB0296		Environment - Single-Use Plastic Straws - Use in a Food Service Business	Delegate Love et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM EMC		Support with amendment	Working with DD Council and presenting Del Love with amendment adopted by PG County when this bill was presented there. We consider the amendment friendly in that it is in keeping with the intention of single use plastic reduction but has accommodations for people with disabilities who need plastic straws for the safe consumption of food and drink.		
HB0312	SB0473	Discrimination in Employment - Reasonable Accommodations for Applicants With Disabilities	Delegate Charkoudian et al/ Senator Lam et al	In House Unfavorable Report EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 12 PM JPR	Support with coalition testimony	The bill includes requirements of businesses to comply with Fair Labor Standards act so in many ways it is redundant but helpful in its clarification of the requirements for application and interview accessibility		
HB0712	SB0260	Labor and Employment - Leave With Pay - Bereavement Leave (Family Bereavement Act)	Delegate Boyce et al/ Senator Washington et al	In House Favorable with Amendments Report EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM FIN	Oppose	"Pet" is too broad a term and the benefit would amount to an unfunded mandate for people who Self-Direct and Medicaid Providers since their funding is set by the state and there is no mandate in this bill to provide funding to providers of Medicaid waiver services (such as DD Providers).		

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House	Senate			House	Senate			House	Senate
HB0353	SB0264	Frederick County - Elderly or Disabled Renters - Grants	Senators Young & Hough/ Frederick County Delegation	In House Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM W&M	Passed in Senate (45-0) ; In House Hearing 3/17 at 1 PM W&M	Support	Instead of a property tax credit, this bill would add Frederick County to the list of current counties that provide housing grants to specific populations of people (people with disabilities)		
	SB0449	Labor and Employment - Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program	Senators Guzzone and Kelley		In Senate Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM FIN	Support	The purpose of the bill is to create a \$250,000 grant program that would be used to provide matching grants to organizations to create and expand on successful recruitment and retention strategies to increase the number of qualified Direct Care Workers and decrease turnover.		
HB0699	SB0504	Office of the Attorney General - Special Education Ombudsman	Delegates Washington and Ivey/ Senator Pinsky et al	In House Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	Would create a Special Education Ombudsman and toll free number for a person to offer non-partial information to families, people with disabilities, teachers, and others regarding special education services, access, and methods to resolve disputes.		
HB0711		Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Inclusion of Out-of-Home Placement Data	Delegate Kaiser et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M		Support	Education bill requiring that the Maryland Longitudinal Data Center adds placement data to its reports. Redefines the purpose of the center to also be to generate timely and accurate information about children who were provided with state-sponsored out-of-home care that can be used to improve the state's education and child welfare systems and guide decisions made at all levels; and facilitate and enable the linkage of student data, placement data, and workforce data.		
HB0806	SB0657	Income Tax - Personal Exemption - Disabled Individuals	Delegate Valentino-Smith et al/ Senator Kramer	In House Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM B&T	Support	Supports extension of tax exemption to people with Physical Disabilities as a natural extension of Blindness (considered a physical disability).		
HB0839	SB0539	Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment	Delegate Valderrama et al/ Senator Hayes and Elfreth et al	In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM FIN	Letter of Information or Support with Amendments to require that there be mandated funding for people who self-direct and DD Providers or The Arc Maryland cannot support.	This would create a benefit for thousands of individuals with I/DD and their families to be able to take paid leave for medical appointments, surgeries, and recoveries, and to care for loved ones with job protections. The bill is problematic however in that it would amount to another unfunded mandate for our provider system and people who self direct their services as employers are those with 1 or more employees under this proposal. Providers' and self-directed individuals' budgets are funded by the state and only if the bill is amended to mandate a state increase in DD funding to account for the additional expense of this benefit would we be able to support. Determining the amount needed would be difficult when the state can adjust the percentage of payroll tax required of employers up to 0.5% based on the need to create a sufficient fund bank. For an average-sized provider with a \$500,000 payroll each period, this mandate would amount to at least \$65,000 in additional employer portion of insurance expenses, plus the expense associated with back-filling vacancies of those individuals taking leave, additional administrative expenses to track employee hours, etc. since the requirements for taking this leave do not align with FMLA.		
HB1171	SB0959	Public Health - Demonstration Program and Developmental Disabilities	Delegate K. Young/ Senator Lee et al	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM FIN	Support with Amendments	Creates a statewide advisory council on Self Directed Services and re-establishes definitions for support broker, and clarifies that everyone can self-direct and family can be hired as staff.		
HB0984	SB0796	Developmental Disabilities Administration - Program Changes and Required Reports	Delegate Cullison/ Senator Guzzone	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM FIN	Support	The bill would require the Developmental Disabilities Administration to delay implementation of EVV and LTSS until such time as it can be assured that no harm will come to individuals and providers upon the implementation of both. The bill also requires the Administration to make certain reports to the General Assembly.		
HB1147	SB0401	Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)	Delegate Solomon et al/ Senator Kagan et al	In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM JPR	Support with Amendment	Requires that single use restrooms in public buildings be labeled with gender-inclusive signage. Amendment to both House and Senate bills will require that signage include a universal bathroom and non-gender image such as a toilet, in addition to othe accessibility features so that people who cannot read can identify the room is a bathroom.		
HB1628		Sales and Use Tax - Rate Reduction and Services	Delegate Luedtke et al	In House Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM W&M					

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Education & Childcare									
	SB0078	Public Schools - Student Discipline Regulations - Remedial Measures	Senator Hough		In Senate Unfavorable Report EHEA	Oppose. We are working with Coalition to Reform School Discipline on a response.	Seems to misinterpret concept of restorative justice by adding requirements of children to apologize, provide restitution, and possibly endure a modified schedule. Some children with specific disabilities may have difficulty with self regulation and understanding the effects of their behavior on other students. This requirement is too broad and does not take many issues under consideration.		
HB0264		Prince George's County - Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity PG 503-20	Prince George's County Delegation	In House Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM W&M		Support	Return of this bill from last session		
HB0277	SB0367	State Department of Education - Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach	Delegate Wilkins et al/ Senator Washington et al	In House Hearing 2/5 at 2 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	The bill creates a fund for schools to provide training to implement trauma informed approaches.		
HB0327		Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Prohibited Conduct	Delegates Washington & Ivey	In House Hearing 2/5 at 2 PM W&M		Support with CRSD testimony	Return of bill from last year- does not allow SROs to carry arms.		
HB0328		State Department of Education - School Discipline - Data Collection	Delegate Washington et al	In House Hearing 2/5 at 2 PM W&M		Support	Requires desegregated data on discipline separated by race, grade level, ethnicity, special services (including special education) and disciplinary practices employed,		
HB0383		State Department of Education - Student Performance Reports - Students With Disabilities	Delegate Guyton et al	In House Unfavorable Report W&M; Withdrawn		Support	The Bill would require data to be desegregated for students supported under the IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.		
HB0396		Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening for Developmental Disabilities	Delegate Guyton et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M		Support with amendments	Bill would require child care centers to have a staff person on site who has training in early childhood screening and interventions for children with developmental disabilities. Need to gather more information about qualifications required as we would not want a situation where a family is incorrectly notified of the suspicion of a delay when the progress of their child may be within typical developmental expectations after premature birth and other factors.		
HB0413		Prince George's County - Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)	Delegate Walker	In House Hearing 2/7 at 1 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.		
HB0475		Community Colleges - Students With Disabilities	Delegates Cain, Guyton, and Mosby	In House Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM APP		Support	This bill would mandate an appropriation of 2.5 million to the grant program that exists to provide assistance to students with disabilities to attend community college		
HB0516		Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)	Delegate Walker et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 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.		
HB0535		Anne Arundel County Public Schools - Preventive Measure Unit Pilot Program	Delegate Saab et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M		Oppose	The bill would create a pilot program that would "monitor students who have behavioral, social, or legal difficulties in or out of school through increased monitoring and attention, and individualized networking with community programs, schools, students, and parents." This would be for Anne Arundel County Schools and local police. The bill does not have a definition for "behavioral, social or legal difficulties" that leaves it up to interpretation for those choosing which students to monitor. Additionally, there is no description of the purpose for which students will be monitored, or how they will be monitored.		
HB0548		Career and Technology Education - Training in Soft Business Skills	Delegate Stein	In House Hearing 2/14 1 PM W&M		Support	Requires public schools to adjust Career and Technology programs to include modules on Workplace "soft skills" to include interacting with co-workers and supervisors, email and other communication etiquette. The Arc Maryland's position is that this training would contribute to the success of students with I/DD to enter the workforce.		
	SB0459	Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Firearms Required	Senator Jennings et al		In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM EHEA	Oppose. We are working with Coalition to Reform School Discipline on a response.			
HB0620		Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport - Security Screening Checkpoint - Charitable Donations	Delegates Love and Parrott	In House Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM E&T		Support	Requires that a donation box be placed at BWI that would allow for the collection of donated funds to go toward Department of Disabilities educational programs.		

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House	Senate			House	Senate			House	Senate
HB0617	SB0604	Public and Nonpublic Schools - Medical Cannabis - Policy for Administration During School Hours and Events	Delegate Kipke and Lehman et al/ Senator Feldman et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM EHEA	Letter of Information (support with considerations)	The bill would require MSDE to work with the Cannabis commission to develop guidelines the the administration of medical cannabis in schools on or before December 2020, and provide training and technical assistance to schools to be able to implement the established guidelines. Some children with disabilities and specific conditions benefit greatly from the use of cannabis components where other drugs and treatments have failed. This would be a game changer for those children. There are federal considerations and as this bill extends beyond SB 605 to address administration on school buses, non-public schools and calls for expansion of the caregiver definition.		
HB0331	SB0605	Public Schools - Medical Cannabis - Guidelines for Administration to Students (Connor's Courage)	Delgate Lisanti et al/ Senator Feldman	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM EHEA	Letter of Information (support with considerations)	The bill would require that on or before December 1, 2020, guidelines shall be available for public schools regarding the administration of medical cannabis to students who are qualifying patients onder Title 13 sub 33 of Health General Art. during school hours and school-sponsored activities.		
	SB0610	Community Colleges - Supplemental Services and Supports for Students With Disabilities Grant Program	Senator King et al		In Senate Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	Return of bill from last year.		
	SB0637	Children - Therapeutic Nursery Program - Funding	Senator King		In Senate Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM B&T	Support	Establishes a Therapeutic Nursery Program with certain levels of funding for children with and without significant disabilities. In the past, the funding for this needed care has been unpredictable. This would ensure the resources are available through annual appropriation.		
HB0718	SB0575	State Department of Education - Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices - Guidance and Assistance	Delegate Luedtke/ Senator Hester	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	In Senate Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM EHEA	Support with possible amendment to include a self advocate on the advisory group.	Requires the MD State Department of Education to establish a stakeholder advisory group to develop a certain reading and dyslexia handbook	From W&M	
HB0769	SB0133	Education - High School Students - Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training	Delegate Adams et al/ Senators West and McCray	In House Unfavorable Report W&M; Withdrawn	In Senate Unfavorable Report EHEA	Support	Provides for graduation and attendance credit for students engaging in vocational training activities. This would benefit people with I/DD who are gathering experience and training in a specific trade if the time spent on those activities counts toward their graduation credits.		
HB1022	SB0830	Education - Alternative Schools - Reporting Requirements	Delegate D.M. Davis et al/ Senator McCray et al	In House Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	This bill would require each county board of education, beginning in a certain school year, to report certain data and information for certain alternative schools within its jurisdiction to the State Department of Education; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date each year, beginning in a certain year, to report certain data and information to the Governor and the General Assembly; defining a certain term; and generally relating to reports on alternative schools in the State.		
HB1595	SB0853	Education - Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program	Delegate Turner/ Senators Patterson and Benson	In House First Reading Rules and Executive Nominations Committee	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM 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.		
	SB0993	County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition	Senator McCray		In Senate Hearing 2/20 at 12 PM JPR	Support	Prohibiting a county board, public or nonpublic prekindergarten programs, and public or nonpublic primary or secondary schools that receive State funds from discriminating against a person because of certain factors (including disability), refusing enrollment of, expelling, or withholding privileges from any student or prospective student because of certain factors (including disability), and from taking a certain retaliatory action.		

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HB1043		Education - Physical Restraint and Seclusion - Guidelines and Reporting	Delegates Wilkins, Cain, and Guyton	In Hoouse Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM W&M		Support	Clarifying a requirement for the State Department of Education to collect data on restraint and seclusion incidents; requiring the Department to provide any data gathered under the Act to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center; requiring the Department to analyze the data collected, verify the data if no incidents are reported, and make recommendations on how to reduce the use of restraint and seclusion by the top 30% of public agencies and nonpublic schools having the highest rate of such incidents.		
HB1098		Use of Public Funds - Playground and Athletic Field Surfaces - Authorizations, Preferences, and Prohibitions (Safe and Healthy Fields Act)	Delegate Solomon et al	In House Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM APP		Support with Amendments	There are some synthetic field materials that release toxins and have been found to cause exacerbation of certain conditions. Proposed amendment will address acceptable synthetic materials for playground and field use consideration.		
HB1235		Maryland Center for School Safety - School Employee Injury Reporting and Study	Delegate Ebersole et al	In House Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM W&M		Letter of Information	Request consideration for bill to be more specific to take data on incidents resulting in injury. It is only through this that we can do root cause investigative work to determine whether the incident could have been de-escalated before it resulted in injury, and what preventative measures could be put into place to try to reduce incidents resulting in injury in the future.		
HB1407		Primary and Secondary Education - Student Discipline (Right to Teach Act of 2020)	Delegate Morgan et al	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM W&M		Oppose	The bill dictates punishments instead of conforming to restorative practices approaches and justice as recommended through the CRSD report.		
HB1468		Education - Student Behavior - Parent Notice and Required Counseling (Parent Accountability Act)	Delegate Long et al	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM W&M		Oppose	There was a similar bill presented last session. The bill implies a one-size fits all approach to discipline and does not take into account individual needs of students and families. This is not inline with best practices.		
HB1300	SB1000	Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation	Speaker/President	In House Hearing 2/17 at 1 PM APP and W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/17 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	This bill will not only provide needed educational funding for our schools but will also address funding inequity, mandate expanded preschool services, require behavioral health services with a recognition of the need for trauma informed approaches and will address teacher training needs while creating an accountability structure that is greatly needed if we are to successfully overhaul the state's education funding structure.		
Health Care									
HB0255	SB0547	Health Care Facilities - Hospitals and Related Institutions - Discrimination Protections	Delegate K. Young et al	In House Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM FIN	Provided Letter of Information	This bill would extend protections against discrimination to facilities at the point of admission consideration. Protected class includes basis of disability. Facilities who accept state and federal funds must already refrain from discriminatory practices however it could present the burden of defense to facilities and people with disabilities if facilities lack capacity and expertise to effectively and safely support people with certain needs and deny admission on this basis, if the denial is disputed as discriminatory.		
HB0259	SB0103	Health Occupations - Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment of Patients - Disciplinary Actions (The Patient's Access to Integrative Healthcare Act of 2020)	Delegate Szeliga et al/ Senators Eckardt and Klausmeier	In House Hearing 2/4 at 1 PM HGO	Passed in Senate with Amendments (43-0)	Provided Letter of Information	The bill appears to be well intended to expand treatment options for people which we would support. However, the way in which this bill is written, it may be interpreted to allow parents to provide written consent for treatment for patients (even adult children) who are "unable to consent." The language is too broad in that parents seem to be given similar power as guardians. While we would appreciate Supported Decision Making when it is presented (likely next session), we want to be careful that the rights of people are maintained. We will be speaking to the sponsors to determine whether or not any further action is required.		From EHEA
HB0457	SB0371	Environment - Drinking Water Outlets in School Buildings - Testing for Elevated Level of Lead	Delegate Rosenberg/ Senator Carter et al	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM E&T	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM EHEA	Providing a Letter of Information	The bill would require that school water outlets (drinking fountains for example) be tested at minimum every 18 months and that any level of lead found cannot exceed 5 parts per billion. Lead poisoning is a cause of developmental and intellectual disability in children who have had exposure to elevated levels of lead in water or surroundings.		

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HB1140	SB0624	Health - Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland - Study	Delegate Charles/ Senators Benson, Klausmeier, and Hayes	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM FIN	Support	This bill would require the Maryland Department of Health and the Governor's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland jointly to take certain actions in order to develop and implement a comprehensive mobile response and stabilization system for children and families in the State; requiring the Department and the Commission jointly to submit their findings and recommendations to certain committees in the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study regarding a mobile response and stabilization system for children and families in Maryland.		
HB0547	SB0455	Health - Maryland Children's Service Animal Program - Establishment	Delegate Barron/ Senator Pinsky et al	In House Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM HGO	Passed in Senate with Amendments (47-0); In House First Reading HGO	Providing a Letter of Information	Creates a fund for the Marland Children's Service Animal Fund. The Arc Maryland would suggest this fund be available to children and young adults up to the age of 21 to be consistent with other programs and supports under the FSW and Autism Waiver. We would also suggest an amendment to clarify a reason for a child to be disqualified from the program. "HAS CAUSED OR MAY POTENTIALLY CAUSE HARM TO OTHERS, AN ANIMAL, OR PROPERTY" is too broad and subjective in that it would require a decision on a child's "potential" to cause harm to self or others based on past behavior when the purpose of the program is to help a child work through trauma, to receive unconditional support, and to increase coping skills.		From FIN
HB0643	SB0701	End-of-Life Option Act (Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer Act)	Delegate Pendergrass et al/ Senators Waldstreicher and Smith et al	In House First Reading HGO and JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/28 at 12 PM JPR	Oppose	It is the position of The Arc of the United States that laws allowing assisted suicide would be detrimental to individuals with I/DD. For our entire position statement, please visit www.thearc.org		
HB0691	SB0576	Health Occupations - Nurse Practitioners - Certifications of Competency and Incapacity	Delegate Cullison/ Senator Eckardt	In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM HGO	Passed in Senate with Amendments (44-0)	Support with Amendment	There are inconsistencies in the bill that make it unclear whether or not at least one physician would be required to make a certification of incapacity. We have spoken to the House Sponsor and understand an amendment will be presented to clarify that at least one physician will be required. We are also asking for guidelines for what training and education the nurse practitioner would need to have to be qualified to make this determination as currently LCSWs (already authorized) have special training in disabilities and mental health, but not all nurse practitioners have this training and education if they regularly practice in another area (dermatology for example).		From EHEA
Justice and Civil Rights									
HB0033	SB0153	Criminal Law - Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult - Causing Severe Emotional Distress	Delegate Guyton et al/ Senator West	In House Hearing 1/21 at 1 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 1/22 at 3 PM JPR	Support	The bill adds severe emotional distress to the list of abuses which constitute a felony crime and of which a person can be fined and serve time. While the bill language as amended is improved, it still does not completely address the effects of cumulative trauma in the causation of "Emotional Distress" and proximal cause, possibly making severe emotional distress victimization difficult to prove. That said, The Arc Maryland supports the intention of this bill which is to add a possibly remedy to the law in cases where there is a preponderance of evidence that a person has maliciously caused a person emotional harm. See Amendment		
	SB0083	State Government - Delivery of Notices and Communications by Electronic Means - Authorized	Chair EHEA		Passed in Senate with Amendments (47-0); In House First Reading HGO	Letter of Information- Proposed two amendments to Sen. Mary Washington who is advocating on our behalf	Watching to see what implications this could have on notices sent by DOH- DDA to families to update status, "clean up" the waiting list, etc. According to this, the notices may no longer need to be sent via mail but could be emailed. We need to consider what protections we may need to put in place for people with limited comprehension of implications of signing affirmative docs to allow e-communications of an official nature.		From EHEA

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HB0140	SB0056	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Plain Language Requirement	Delegate Guyton et al/ Senator Kagan	In House Hearing 1/29 at 1 PM W&M	Passed in Senate with Amendments (45-0); In House Hearing 3/17 at 1 PM W&M	Support	The standard for readability is 7th grade and this bill creates a lower threshold (6th grade). Our research indicates that although we would prefer a lower threshold for reading level (4th grade) there are specific guidelines for ballots and election measures and a 6th grade reading level is supported and could be reinforced though these guidelines. This measure would improve access and understanding from current level.		From EHEA
HB0142		Election Law - Voting Order Priority - Individuals Who Need Extra Assistance	Delegate Guyton et al	In House Hearing 1/29 at 1 PM 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.		
HB0184	SB0783	Special Education - Judicial Actions - Attorney's Fees and Related Costs	Delegate Luedtke/ Senators Zucker and Patterson	In House Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM EHEA	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.		
HB0304		Consumer Protection - Unfair, Abusive, or Deceptive Trade Practices - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults	Delegate Shetty et al	In House Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM EMC		Support	The bill would increase penalties for people found to have violated a specific section of the Consumer Protection Act, engaging in exploitation of a vulnerable adult.		
HB0320	SB0702	Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence	Delegate Shetty et al/ Senator Waldstreicher	Passed in House with Amendments (137-0); In Senate First Reading JPR	In Senate Hearing 2/20 at 12 PM JPR	Support	The bill would effectively criminalize the behavior of a person exerting undue influence to coerce a vulnerable adult or older adult out of their belongings. Undue Influence is re-defined as "Excessive persuasion that causes a vulnerable adult or individual at least 68 years old to act or refrain from acting by overcoming that person's free will and that results in inequity."		From JUD
HB0742		Corrections - Restrictive Housing - Serious Mental Illness - Assessments (Restrictive Housing Reform Act)	Delegate J. Lewis et al	In House Hearing 2/25 at 1 PM JUD		Support	Part of restrictive housing reform to account for the needs of individuals with I/DD and individuals with Mental Health conditions		
HB1115	SB0436	Courts - Improperly Summoning a Police Officer - Civil Liability	Delegate Charles et al/ Senator McCray	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/14 at 12 PM JPR	Letter of information	This bill would allow a civil complaint to be made from the first person against a second person who summons the police without cause to arrive at a location to address the 1st person. Some people with I/DD and co-occurring mental health conditions may summon the police out of reaction to paranoid ideation or out of another need for support and attention. This summoning is not typically malicious and is reasonable to the person at the time, but people who do this may now be exposed to damages if charges are brought against them by the person about whom they called police.		
HB1118	SB0885	Motor Vehicle Administration - Records - Voluntary Disclosure of Developmental Disability	Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo/ Senator Zucker et al	In House Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM E&T	In Senate Hearing 3/3 at 12 PM JPR	Support with possible Amendment	The sponsor already made significant modifications from original draft of the legislation to address concerns from the disability advocacy committee. We would just question the inclusion of the courts in the entities that have access to information regarding a person's disability. We would not want this information to be used against a person in a court hearing determining fault for and accident for example.		
HB1314	SB0757	Election Law - Voting Systems - Accessibility for Voters With Disabilities	Delegate Mosby et al/ Senator Lam et al	In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	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.		

Bills We Are Monitoring by Topic

Community Living & Working

2020 Annapolis Insider Bill Tracker

Bill		Title	Primary Sponsor	Status		Position	Notes	Amendments	
House	Senate			House	Senate			House	Senate
HB0498		Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs - Funding	Delegate Hill et al	In House Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM APP		Gathering more information	Creates an appropriation to support initiatives that would help seniors age in place- including seniors with I/DD		
HB0730	SB0567	Sales and Use Tax - Exemption - Out-of-State Nonprofit Organizations	Delegate D. Barnes et al/ Senator Washington	In House Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM B&T	Monitor	Extends sales and use tax exemptions to out of state non-profits who make purchases or rentals in the state for the sole purpose of holding a conference or convention in the state of Maryland.		
HB1003	SB0851	Human Services - Department of Disabilities - Accessibility Programs	Delegate Barron/ Senator Kagan	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM FIN	Monitor	This bill would transfer the administration and management of the Telecommunications Access of Maryland and Telecommunications Devices and Distribution of Accessible Information for Disabled Individuals programs from the Department of Information Technology to the Department of Disabilities; adding a representative of the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay as a member of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities; adding representatives from the Maryland Commission on Disabilities and the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay; requiring the Department of Disabilities to provide staff, including a director, to the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay; establishing the qualifications and duties of the director; requiring the Department of Disabilities to provide a system for eligible program participants who cannot access telecommunications relay services in a traditional manner; making conforming changes; and generally relating to programs administered by the Department of Disabilities.		
HB1561		Discriminatory Housing Practices - Intent	Delegate Rosenberg	In House First Reading HGO		Gathering more information	Prohibiting a person from acting in a manner, regardless of intent, that has a certain discriminatory effect against any person in certain housing transactions; providing that a person who unintentionally violates a certain provision has not committed a discriminatory housing practice under certain circumstances; and altering a certain policy of the State related to discriminatory housing practices		
Education & Childcare									
HB0522	HB0572	Education - Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students - Report	Delegate Bhandari et al/ Senator McCray	In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate First Reading EHEA	Gathering more information	It is not clear what this bill changes as there is no bolded bill text. Checking with sponsor on intentions.		
HB0675	SB0549	Education - Public Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh Act)	Delegate Kerr/ Senators Young, Feldman, and Klausmeier	In House Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM EHEA	Gathering more information	The Arc Maryland supports this critical training and availability of treatment. The Arc is requesting additional information from the sponsor regarding changes to delegated care.		
HB0819	SB0768	Health - Health and Wellness Standards - Correctional Facilities and Health Care Facilities	Delegates Hill and Barron et al/ Senators Patterson and Lam et al	In House Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/26 at 12 PM JPR	Gathering more information for possible amendment	This bill makes reference to application to related institutions. Imposition of special diet requirements may increase costs for training and food purchase in related institutions such as small group homes who provide board. This may result in an unfunded mandate.		
HB1292		Public Schools - Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices	Delegate Guyton	In House Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM W&M		Gathering more information and possible letter of information	Conducting research on the pros and cons of this legislation		
Health Care									
HB0317		Mental Health - Involuntary Admissions - Procedures	Delegate K. Young et al	In House Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM HGO		Gathering more information	Allows a person to be held for observation status with additional rights. This bill is one in a series reacting to lack of crisis mental health services in Maryland and efforts to increase options for individuals and families		
HB0332	SB0441	Mental Health - Emergency Facilities List - Comprehensive Crisis Response Centers, Crisis Stabilization Centers, and Crisis Treatment Centers	Delgate Bagnall et al/ Senator Hayes et al	In House Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM HGO	Passed in Senate with Amendments (46-0); In House First Reading HGO	Gathering more information	Bill dictates what the list (that is already mandated to be created once a year) includes comprehensive crisis response centers, crisis stabilization centers, and crisis treatment centers. It is not clear how this information would help without information on current capacity/openings in each of these centers, but it is a start.		From FIN
HB0374		Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services	Delegates Barron, Bartlett & Lehman	In House Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM HGO		Gathering more information	This bill would require inclusion of information on specific services offered and would make the list more accessible to the public.		
HB0584	SB0965	Day Care Centers for the Elderly and Day Care Centers for Adults - Reimbursement	Delegate Hettleman (now known as Senator Hettleman)/ Senator Hettleman	In House Hearing 2/25 at 1 PM APP	In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM FIN	Gathering more information	The bill requires the payment of a day of service by the Department of Health for day care programs for older adults (medical day) if the person attends for at least 4 hours that day or is unable to attend due to weather related incidents.		

2020 Annapolis Insider Bill Tracker

Bill		Title	Primary Sponsor	Status		Position	Notes	Amendments	
House	Senate			House	Senate			House	Senate
	SB0453	Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services	Senator Pinsky et al		In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring			
HB0612		Labor and Employment - Health Care Facilities - Workplace Safety Program - Revisions	Delegate Cox	In House Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM HGO		Monitoring	Requires that healthcare facilities (hospitals and state residential centers) create a workplace safety committee and allow employees, who report assault or threatening behavior of an individual in their care, to elect to not care for the individual any more.		
HB1163	SB0642	Home- and Community-Based Waiver Services - Alterations and Task Force	Delegate Cullison et al/ Senators Kelley, Hayes, Lee, and West	In House Hearing 3/5 at PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	This appears to apply to the older adults waiver but we are getting more information. Essentially it would eliminate the waiting list for these services by eliminating the cap		
	SB0733	Public Health - Care of Medically Fragile Individuals (Channing's Law)	Senator Lam et al		In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM FIN	Gathering more information for possible support	Requiring the Office of Health Care Quality to establish, by December 31, 2021, a training program and a skills review for nurses who care for medically fragile individuals in the individuals' homes; defining "medically fragile individual" as a person under 21 who has a complex medical condition requiring professional or parental supervision on a 24-hour basis; requiring, beginning January 1, 2022, a nurse who provides care to a medically fragile individual to complete a certain training program before beginning to provide care		
HB1120	SB0738	Health Care Providers and Health Benefit Plans - Discrimination in Provision of Services	Delegate Kelly/ Senator Feldman	In House Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/26 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	This bill looks very similar to another bill addressing discrimination on the basis of disability as well as other factors.		
	SB0834	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provision of Residential Service Agency Services	Senator Benson		In Senate Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	This bill's purpose is unclear.		
HB1091	SB0863	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Long-Term Care Services and Supports - Personal Needs Allowance	Delegates McKay, Beitzel, and Buckel/ Senator Edwards	In House Hearing 3/4 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM FIN	Gathering more information	Requires that individuals may keep \$450 of their income as a Personal Needs Allowance. This would be a good thing for individuals who do not currently have enough left over every month to purchase clothing, medications and have money left over for recreation, we are looking into implications for individuals who pay room and board and their ability to pay their share of room and board if they are keeping \$450.		
	SB0873	Public Health - Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Funded by HSCRC and Maryland Patient Safety Center Duties	Senator Kelley		In Senate First Reading FIN and JPR	Will be discussing with Gov Affairs Committee for possible support with amendments	Gathering more information to assess similarity between this bill and HB1563 and SB873		
HB1168	SB0897	Maryland Department of Health - Residential Service Agencies - Training Requirements	Delegate Sample-Hughes et al/ Senator Hester	In House Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM FIN	Gathering more information	Does not appear these requirements will extend to DDA providers		
	SB0918	Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training	Senator Carter		In Senate Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM FIN	Gathering more information for possible support	the bill creates a commission to create policies for statewide implementation of trauma informed care approach.		
HB1302		Criminal Law - Felony Second-Degree Assault - Emergency Medical Care Workers	Delegates Ciliberti and Cox et al	In House Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM JUD		Monitoring	Monitoring for implications on people who inadvertently and unintentionally injure an emergency medical care worker during an incident.		
HB1475	SB0992	School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)	Delegate Solomon et al/ Senator McCray	In House Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM E&T	Passed in Senate with Amendments (46-0); In House First Reading E&T and W&M	Monitoring	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.		From Senator Carter
HB1542		Public Health - Lead Poisoning Testing Program and Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund	Delegate Mosby	In House Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM E&T		Monitoring	see above		
HB1563	SB0879	Public Health - Maryland Infant Lifetime Care Trust Funded by HSCRC and Maryland Patient Safety Center Duties	Delegate Cullison/ Senator Kelley	In House First Reading JUD and APP	In Senate Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM FIN	Gathering more information to access similarity with SB0873	The trust would be modeled after the trust in NY and would provide lifetime care and support for people injured as infants during birth, resulting in lifelong, permanent disability. Will request that expenses for respite care, habilitative services, and transportation be included in benefits covered.		
Justice and Civil Rights									
HB0369		Foster Parents, Preadoptive Parents, and Caregivers - Right to Intervene	Delegate Dumais	In House Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM JUD		Monitoring	This may broaden the statute too much by giving additional people authority to intervene on behalf of a child.		
HB0421		State Government - Open Meetings - Requirements and Application of Open Meetings Act (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act)	Delegate Korman et al	In House Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM HGO		Monitoring			

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Bill		Title	Primary Sponsor	Status		Position	Notes	Amendments	
House	Senate			House	Senate			House	Senate
HB0477		Estates and Trusts - Guardianship of the Property of Disabled Persons - Court-Appointed Attorneys	Delebate Dumais	Passed in House with Amendments (136-0); In Senate First Reading JPR		Monitoring	Provides for attorney's fees or the appointment of an attorney who is contracted by the Department of Human Services for a person who otherwise cannot afford an attorney	From JUD	
HB0745	SB0407	Office of the Attorney General - Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit	Delegate Stein/ Senator Kramer et al	In House Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM JPR	Monitoring	Creates a Senior and Vulnerable Adult Unit in the Office of the Attorney General to assist individuals with scams and other difficulties and to monitor threats.		
	SB0481	Criminal Law - Crime of Violence - Vulnerable Adult	Senator Lee et al		In Senate Hearing 2/13 at 12 PM JPR	Monitoring	The bill defines abuse and neglect as a level 1 felonious offense		
HB0721	SB0512	Vehicle Laws - Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual - Penalties	Delegate Stein/ Senator Waldstreicher	In House Referred to E&T	In Senate Hearing 2/21 at 12 PM JPR	Monitor			
HB0893		Washington County - Adult Public Guardianship Review Board - Membership	Washington County Delegation	In House First Reading JUD		Gathering more information for possible opposition	Alters the membership of the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board of Washington County to require one member to be a psychiatrist or psychologist and one to be of a profession not a physician.		
	SB0818	Residential Treatment Centers and Facilities - Sexual Abuse and Harassment - Reporting and Prevention	Senator Klausmeier		In Senate Hearing 3/11 at 1 PM FIN	Monitor	Appears to be a good bill		
	SB0833	Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study	Senators Benson and Augustine		In Senate Hearing 3/4 at 12 PM JPR	Monitor	This appears to be a good bill applying to older adults		
HB1282		Criminal Procedure - Vulnerable Adult Abuse Registry	Delegate Mautz et al	In House Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM JUD		Gathering more information	This bill is well intended. It is not clear if the DOH is the best department to maintain a list with any degree of accuracy due to the way incidents are currently reported and investigated. Need to consult with other partners.		