

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 Communications and Engagement, at [lchause@thearcmd.org](mailto:lchause@thearcmd.org). Last Updated 1/29/24

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
<b>Budget Bills</b>							
<a href="#">SB0360</a>	<a href="#">HB0350</a>	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025)	Senate President at Request of Administration	In Senate B&T First Reading	Evaluating	Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.	The DD Coalition is working to get a full analysis of what is included in the proposed 2025 DDA appropriation. We have confirmation 3% rate increase and there is 60 M for service enhancements and expansion. We will provide additional information as we have it.
<a href="#">HB0350</a>	<a href="#">SB0360</a>	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025)	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Evaluating	See above	The DD Coalition is working to get a full analysis of what is included in the proposed 2025 DDA appropriation. We have confirmation 3% rate increase and there is 60 M for service enhancements and expansion. We will provide additional information as we have it.
<a href="#">SB0361</a>	<a href="#">HB0351</a>	Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023	Senate President at Request of Administration	In Senate B&T First Reading	Evaluating	Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$1,792,830,000, the proceeds to be used for certain necessary building, construction, demolition, planning, renovation, conversion, replacement, and capital equipment purchases of the State, for acquiring certain real estate in connection therewith, and for grants to certain subdivisions and other organizations for certain development and improvement purposes; etc.	
<a href="#">HB0351</a>	<a href="#">SB0361</a>	Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Evaluating	See above	
<a href="#">SB0362</a>	<a href="#">HB0352</a>	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024	Senate President at Request of Administration	In Senate B&T First Reading	Evaluating	Altering or repealing certain required appropriations; authorizing the use of certain funds for certain purposes; altering the funding formula for community colleges and the State aid program for private nonprofit institutions of higher education; authorizing or altering the distribution of certain revenue; requiring interest earnings for certain special funds to accrue to the General Fund of the State for fiscal years 2024 through 2028; authorizing the transfer of certain funds; etc.	There is something in the BRFA that would allow DDA to place a cap/limit how much could be spent on individual directed goods and services under self direction. SDAN is analyzing and preparing a response.
<a href="#">HB0352</a>	<a href="#">SB0362</a>	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Evaluating	See above	There is something in the BRFA that would allow DDA to place a cap/limit how much could be spent on individual directed goods and services under self direction. SDAN is analyzing and preparing a response.
<b>Bill Positions by Topic</b>							
Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
<b>Community Living &amp; Working</b>							
<a href="#">SB0092</a>	<a href="#">HB0426</a>	Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning	Senator Brooks	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and requiring a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases at least two motion picture houses in the State to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.	repeat bill from previous year
<a href="#">HB0426</a>	<a href="#">SB0092</a>	Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning	Delegate Bhandari	In House EMC Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Support	See above	repeat bill from previous year
<a href="#">SB0202</a>		Income Tax – Caregiver Tax Credit	Senator Benson	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/17 at 1 PM	Support	Allowing certain caregivers a credit against the State income tax equal to 30% of certain qualified expenses paid or incurred to provide care or support to certain qualifying family members; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.	We submitted DD Coalition testimony
<a href="#">SB0203</a>	<a href="#">HB0007</a>	Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)	Senator Waldstreicher	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/25 at 2 PM	Support	Establishing the Housing Innovation Pilot Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide loans for local housing authorities to develop mixed-income, cross-subsidized housing; establishing the Housing Innovation Fund; requiring a local housing authority to provide a dollar-for-dollar match for Program funds awarded to housing innovation projects that are part of the Program; requiring the Department to prioritize projects that do not use low-income housing tax credit equity or tax-exempt volume cap; etc.	We are interested in initiatives that will expand the stock of affordable, accessible, and safe housing for people with IDD
<a href="#">HB0007</a>	<a href="#">SB0203</a>	Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)	Delegate Stewart	In House E&T Hearing 1/30 at 2 PM	Support	See above	

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<a href="#">SB0331</a>		Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland	Senators Lewis Young and Charles	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/7 at 2 PM	Support with Amendments	Establishing the Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland; requiring the Task Force to study paratransit in the State, including current, needed, and expected funding for paratransit, reasons for current funding and spending gaps, and the role public-private partnerships could play in meeting funding and service gaps; and requiring the Task Force to report, on or before June 30, 2025, its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.	This is very much needed to understand the Paratransit system and to develop solutions to enhance and improve services. We will be asking sponsors to ensure that people with disabilities and lived experience with the service are added to the Task Force. This has been a topic of interest in the Cross Disability Coalition for years and there are members who would be excellent representatives for the voices of people with disabilities.		
								Coalition testimony	
<a href="#">HB0215</a>	<a href="#">SB0226</a>	Human Services - Attendant Care Program - Ongoing Additional Supports	Chair, HGO By Request of Dept. of Disabilities	In House HGO First Reading	Support	Altering the purpose of the Attendant Care Program to include the provision of financial assistance for ongoing additional supports that increase an individual's independent performance of essential daily activities and is requested by an eligible individual	The Attendant Care Program is administered by the Maryland Department of Health to help people with severe chronic or permanent physical disabilities living in the community. These services may take the form of employment supports, and supports to attend post-secondary education as examples. The goal of this program is to prevent nursing home admission by providing essential services and supports to people in the community. Statute dictates the program functions through providing direct reimbursement for attendant care services obtained by the program participant. With this bill the Department hopes to expand the program to allow for reimbursement of attendant care services and add "ongoing additional supports." This would allow participants in the program to be reimbursed for additional services and supports that they need for home and community-based living, that are approved by the MDOD. Examples of such supports could be grocery delivery, prescription drug delivery, service animal expenses, laundry services, and more.		
<a href="#">SB0226</a>	<a href="#">HB0215</a>	Human Services - Attendant Care Program - Ongoing Additional Supports	Chair, Finance Committee (By Request - Departmental - Disabilities)	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/08 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above		
<a href="#">SB0088</a>	<a href="#">HB0055</a>	Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families	Senator Gile et al.	In Senate EEE Favorable with Amendments Report	Letter of Information	Establishing the Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families to study developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan to make Maryland the best state for veterans and military families, including legislative and budgetary recommendations; and requiring the Commission to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.	We would like to see if this could include a commission member who is a parent of a child with a disability.		
<a href="#">HB0055</a>	<a href="#">SB0088</a>	Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families	Delegate Pruski	In House HGO Hearing 1/23 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	See above		
<a href="#">SB0141</a>	<a href="#">HB0199</a>	Multifamily Dwellings - Smoking Policies	Senator A. Washington	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Requiring the governing body of a common ownership community to develop a smoking policy if the property subject to the control of the governing body is a multifamily dwelling.	This may have applications for people with IDD who may not fully understand or be able to comply with living in a multifamily community that implements community smoking ban. Evaluating with DD Coalition for position		
<a href="#">HB0199</a>	<a href="#">SB0141</a>	Multifamily Dwellings - Smoking Policies	Delegate Wu et al.	In House E&T Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Letter of Information or SWA	See above			
<a href="#">SB0262</a>		Charitable Organizations - Late Fees and Registration - Suspension and Cancellation Requirements	Chair JPR by request of Dept. of Secretary of State	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Support	Authorizing the Secretary of State to suspend payment of certain late fees assessed to certain charitable organizations under certain circumstances; and authorizing the Secretary of State to cancel a charitable organization's registration or reinstate a charitable organization's canceled registration under certain circumstances.			
<a href="#">SB0277</a>	<a href="#">HB0161</a>	Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses, Learner's Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards	Chair JPR by request of Dept. of Transportation	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Support	Exempting certain applicants for identification cards who present certain documentation from the issuance fee for the identification card; extending the term of certain learner's instructional permits from 180 days to 1 year after the date of issuance; and establishing that certain driver's licenses issued to certain holders by the Motor Vehicle Administration remain in full force and effect during an absence from the State.	Would permit more people to obtain identification and DL cards by eliminating financial barriers. This would amend the law to say that a fee for a DL or ID is not required if the applicant for the card: (i) Is 65 years old or older; (ii) Is legally blind; (iii) Has permanently lost the use of a leg or an arm; (iv) Is permanently disabled so severely that the applicant cannot move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair; (v) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a "major life activity" as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; (and among other allowances in the bill...) (X) PRESENTS DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY UNDER THE CARE OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.		

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<a href="#">HB0161</a>	<a href="#">SB0277</a>	Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses, Learner's Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards	Chair E&T by request of Dept. of Transportation	In House E&T Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above		
<a href="#">HB0509</a>	<a href="#">SB0599</a>	Developmental Disabilities - Community Providers - Federal Participation for Local Funds	Delegate Kaiser et al.	In House HGO First Reading	Letter of Information	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a process to receive federal financial participation for the payment of county or municipal general funds appropriated to community providers that serve individuals with developmental disabilities; and requiring the Department to allocate the federal financial participation to the community providers to which the county or municipality general funds were appropriated.			
<a href="#">SB0599</a>	<a href="#">HB0509</a>	Developmental Disabilities - Community Providers - Federal Participation for Local Funds	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN First Reading	Letter of Information	See above			
<a href="#">SB0162</a>	<a href="#">HB0093</a>	Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Residential Lease - Limitation of Liability for Rent	Senator Waldstreicher	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Support with Amendments	Limiting a tenant's liability for rent under a residential lease if a physician, counselor, therapist, or psychologist completes a form specifying that the tenant has an intellectual or developmental disability or mental disorder and the tenant vacates the leased premises, the management of which is extremely limited by the leased premises.	We would like to see an amendment to the legislation to remove developmental disability.		
<a href="#">HB0093</a>	<a href="#">SB0162</a>	Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Residential Lease - Limitation of Liability for Rent	Delegate Mireku-North	In House E&T Hearing 1/30 at 2 PM	Support with Amendments	See above	See above		
<a href="#">HB0581</a>	<a href="#">SB0472</a>	State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House HGO Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Support/ Monitor	Requiring certain departments and independent units to create a certain catalog of information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by the department or independent unit and submit the catalog to the Governor on or before September 1, 2024; requiring certain departments and independent units to post certain information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates on the website of the department or independent unit on or before December 1, 2024; establishing the Government Efficiency Commission; etc.			
<a href="#">SB0472</a>	<a href="#">HB0581</a>	State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)	Senate President at Request of Administration	In Senate EEE First Reading	Support/ Monitor	see above			

#### Education & Childcare

<a href="#">SB0189</a>		Public Schools - Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts - Development of Content Standards and Implementation	Senator Ellis	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/17 at 3 PM	Support with Amendments	Requiring the State Board of Education to develop content standards for inclusive and diverse English language arts to be included in certain State standards for English language arts by December 1, 2025; requiring each county board of education to develop and implement certain curriculum guides for inclusive and diverse English language arts; and requiring each public school to include inclusive and diverse English language arts in the English language arts curriculum beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.	We developed testimony with the DD Council to support that changes to English language arts standards should include inclusion from a disability lens.		
<a href="#">HB0206</a>		Education - Student Behavior - Parent and Guardian Notice and Required Counseling (Parent and Guardian Accountability Act)	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Oppose	Establishing that it is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a student in a public school to fail to seek and participate in counseling with the parent's or guardian's child after receiving a certain notice of violent and disruptive behavior; and requiring a public school principal to provide a certain written notice to the parent or guardian of a student who engages in two or more incidents of violent and disruptive behavior on school premises or during school-related activities during the school year.	We are concerned that requiring parents to receive counseling for the behavior of their children is inappropriate in the case of a student with disabilities whose behavior may be related to their disability. While school-parent partnerships are important and should be a focus, we believe this particular bill/requirements may put undue burden on families of students with disabilities and is not in line with significant work to instill restorative practices in school, and is not supported in the trauma informed care model.		
<a href="#">HB0060</a>		Rehabilitation Services - Disability - Definition	Delegate Guyton	In House W&M Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM	Support	Altering the definition of "disability" relating to the provision of rehabilitation services in the State to align with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and defining "disability" as any physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment or independent living.	This updates language and should not present any unintended negative impact even as label would be different from Federal statute.		
<a href="#">HB0050</a>		Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education	Delegate Acevero	In House W&M Hearing 1/17 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Establishing the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland; and requiring the Commission to report its findings to the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly by December 30 each year beginning in 2024.	We need to make sure alterations to the curriculum of history, culture and civics will include information on the history and culture of disabilities. This is important to increasing knowledge and understanding for greater inclusion/acceptance. Letter of information requested a change to a term from "Differently abled" to "person with a disability", and also a request to add an additional member to the coalition from the disability community.		

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<a href="#">HB0074</a>		Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment	Delegate Guyton	In House W&M Hearing 1/17 at 1 PM	Support	Establishing the Lifesaver Schools Program to recognize public schools that provide health and safety training to students and school personnel; requiring Lifesaver Schools to offer students, at a minimum, training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, mental health wellness programs or a peer mentoring program, provide service hours for student participants, and offer certain training to school personnel; and authorizing a public school to partner with the county board to meet the criteria to qualify as a Lifesaver School.	We support this as one more way schools can embrace and implement cultures of understanding and help to those in need. We believe this will extend to greater empowerment, and safety for students with special behavioral and medical healthcare needs.		
<a href="#">HB0157</a>		Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase (School Safety Enhancement Act of 2024)	Delegate Griffith	In House APP Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Beginning in fiscal year 2026, increasing from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 an annual appropriation to the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in meeting an annual reporting requirement on law enforcement coverage in public schools.	School safety is important and so is having resources for positive behavioral supports, training for teachers, and environmental modifications that could ensure access and safety, and want to ensure funds for those purposes are not starved in favor of funding for SROs. We have concerns about expanding the number of SROs in school when data supports situations where SROs have escalated situations. We will be sharing our views with partners and determining a position prior to hearing.		
<a href="#">HB0167</a>		Public Schools - Student Health - Certificate of Dental Health	Delegate Harrison	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Requiring, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the State, to submit a certificate of dental health to their school on a certain schedule; and requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, to adopt certain regulations and to develop and disseminate a standard form for a certificate of dental health to county boards of education and parents and guardians of certain students.	On top of financial considerations and barriers to equity if legislation passes, there are some students with disabilities who do not tolerate dental care. In some cases, it may be in their best health interest to undergo dental work under sedation, but this is considered a risky approach and the risks often outweigh the benefits of the examination. There must be accommodations for students and families under certain circumstances so students are not prevented from accessing education- we have signed on to a letter of information from the EAC.		
<a href="#">SB0419</a>	<a href="#">HB0377</a>	Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations	Senators King and Zucker	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Support with additional information	Altering the fiscal years, to begin in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, during which the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program.	We would still like to see inflation increases to the mandated appropriations for therapeutic childcare.		
<a href="#">HB0377</a>	<a href="#">SB0419</a>	Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations	Delegate Mireku-North et al.	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM and APP First Reading	Support with additional information	See above	See above		
<a href="#">HB0420</a>		State and Local Parks - Play Area Accessibility - Communication Boards	Delegate Lehman et al.	In House E&T Hearing 2/14 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the Department of Natural Resources and local governing bodies to construct communication boards in certain newly constructed public play areas; defining "communication board" as a device that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to enable individuals with limited language skills to communicate; authorizing the Department and local governing bodies to construct communication boards when making alterations to certain existing public play areas; and providing funding for the construction of communication boards.			
<a href="#">HB0336</a>	<a href="#">SB00592</a>	Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program Meetings	Delegate Forbes et al.	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Support with Information	Requiring a local school system to provide to parents at certain individualized education program meetings for children with disabilities certain written informational materials regarding the Maryland ABLE Program in a certain manner; requiring the State Treasurer to develop informational materials about the Maryland ABLE Program that may be distributed electronically or by hand; and requiring the State Treasurer to provide informational materials to the State Board of Education and county boards of education.	We would like to see this include the parents' rights with the materials given each year.		
<a href="#">SB00592</a>	<a href="#">HB0336</a>	Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program Meetings	Senator Zucker et al.	In Senate EEE First Reading	Support with Information	See above	See above		
<a href="#">HB00615</a>	<a href="#">SB00512</a>	Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property - Application	Delegate Ruth et al	In House W&M First Reading	Support	Specifying that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing certain disruptive and threatening behavior on certain school grounds and property do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend or students who commit offenses at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program sponsored at that institution.	This is a repeat bill from last session that did not make it through the legislative process. This bill would ensure that any person, other than a student, who enters a school and wilfully disturbs the educational experience or school sponsored event will continue to be subject to a charge and penalty under the bill-referenced provision of the Education Article. This bill does not change law that says that students are subject to arrest and conviction for crimes contained elsewhere in the Criminal Law statute. This bill just removes the special crime of school disruption for <b>students</b> from the Education statute.		

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<a href="#">SB00512</a>	<a href="#">HB00615</a>	Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property - Application	Senator A. Washington	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM	Support	See above	see above		
<a href="#">HB00675</a>		Primary and Secondary Education - Education Savings Account Program - Established (Maryland Universal School Choice Act)	Delegates Grammer et al.	In the House - First Reading Appropriations	Oppose	Establishing the Education Savings Account program in the State administered by the State Department of Education to provide grants to the account of the parent of an eligible student in order to provide for the eligible student's education; requiring the parent of an eligible student to participate in a certain agreement with the Department; and allowing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for deposits into an education savings account.	We prefer that any funds the state could gather for school choice grants instead be directed to public education enhancements. We are concerned this is being presented as a work-around to the BOOST program. If grants are going to be given by the state for use in non-public school admissions, there should be requirements for non-public schools who accept grant funding from parents of students with special education needs, to comply with the IDEA as if they were a public school, with all of the associated responsibilities and requirements.		
<a href="#">SB0033</a>		More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and provide a method for a student or a student's parent or guardian to authorize the release of the student's personal information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; requiring each public high school to inform students of certain employment and skills training opportunities in a certain manner; etc.			
<b>Healthcare</b>									
<a href="#">SB0124</a>	<a href="#">HB0400</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement	Senator Augustine	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage and certain reimbursement for annual behavioral health wellness visits.			
<a href="#">HB0400</a>	<a href="#">SB0124</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement	Delegate Woods et al.	In House HGO Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	See above			
<a href="#">SB0388</a>	<a href="#">HB0340</a>	Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024)	Senators Gile and Feldman et al.	In Senate First Reading FIN and First Reading B&T	Support	Requiring the Governor in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 for the Prescription Drug Affordability Fund which provides funding for the Board; and requiring the Board, under certain circumstances, to establish a process for setting upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State that the Board determines have led or will lead to affordability challenges.			
<a href="#">HB0340</a>	<a href="#">SB0388</a>	Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (The Lowering Prescription Drug Costs For All Marylanders Now Act)	Delegates Cullison and White Holland	In House HGO Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	See above			
<a href="#">HB0353</a>	<a href="#">SB0445</a>	Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland - Oversight	Delegate Cullison	In House HGO First Reading	Support	Defining the term "Health and Human Services Referral System" for the purposes of certain provisions of law governing the System to mean a certain coordinated system for health and human services resources that is accessible to State residents, rather than a certain telephone service; repealing the requirement that the Maryland Department of Health evaluate the performance of certain call centers and make certain recommendations regarding the quality of service provided by call centers; etc.	Amends 2-1-1 responsibilities from just providing information to also providing behavioral health coordination services for those who call in for help.		
<a href="#">SB0445</a>	<a href="#">HB0353</a>	Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland - Oversight	Senators Zucker and Augustine	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above		
<a href="#">HB0354</a>		Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment	Delegate Cullison	In House HGO Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Support	Establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program in the Maryland Department of Health; requiring the Secretary to establish a pilot program at community colleges in at least two geographically diverse areas in the State that offer licensed practical nursing programs before implementing the Program statewide; requiring an annual report by to the Governor and the General Assembly on implementation of the Program; and establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee to assist in the development of the Program.	This would help increase the stock of nurses we have in Maryland.		

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<a href="#">SB0600</a>	<a href="#">HB0103</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to study the feasibility of including removable full and partial dentures and setting adequate reimbursement rates for providers on a per-patient basis for house calls and extended care facility calls among the coverage offered by the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program; and requiring the Department to report its findings from the study to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1, 2024			
<a href="#">HB0103</a>	<a href="#">SB0600</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study	Delegate Bagnall	In the House HGO First Reading	Support	see above			
<b>Justice &amp; Civil Rights</b>									
<a href="#">HB0142</a>		Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2024)	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing Canceled	Oppose	Authorizing a voter to establish the voter's identity at the request of an election judge at a polling place by presenting the voter's registration card, a valid Maryland driver's license, or certain other identification that contains a photograph.	We believe this would present barriers to people with IDD and interfere with the exercise of their voting rights.		
<a href="#">HB0169</a>		Custodial Interrogation of Minors - Admissibility of Statements	Delegate Acevero	In House JUD First Reading	Support	Establishing a certain rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a minor during a custodial interrogation is involuntary and is inadmissible in a juvenile or criminal proceeding against the minor if the law enforcement officer intentionally used information known by the officer to false in order to elicit the statement.	Repeat legislation from last year		
<a href="#">HB0192</a>		Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing Canceled	Oppose	Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid non-government-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.	We believe this would present barriers to people with IDD and interfere with the exercise of their voting rights.		
<a href="#">HB0202</a>		Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirements and Verification	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing Canceled	Oppose	Prohibiting a local board of elections from removing an absentee ballot from a return envelope or ballot/return envelope or counting the ballot unless the return envelope or ballot/return envelope is signed by the voter and, except under certain circumstances, a witness and the local board verifies the voter's signature; and providing that the witness signature requirement does not apply to active duty uniformed services members serving overseas or their spouses or dependents who live overseas.	We believe this would present barriers to people with IDD and interfere with the exercise of their voting rights.		
<a href="#">HB0164</a>		Election Law - Voter Registration List - Absentee Voters (Absentee Ballot Transparency Act of 2024)	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing Canceled	Oppose	Requiring the State Board of Elections or a local board of elections, on request of a candidate, to provide the candidate with a list of registered voters who have requested an absentee ballot for an upcoming election; and requiring that the list of absentee voters provided include the email address and telephone number of each voter on the list, if the information is available.	Voter privacy concerns and protections are needed for voters with disabilities to avoid unwarranted scrutiny of their absentee vote.		
<a href="#">SB0061</a>		Higher Education - Disciplinary Records - Use in Admissions and Disciplinary Proceedings	Senator A. Washington	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/24 at 2 PM	Support with Amendment	Prohibiting an institution of higher education from using an admissions application that contains questions about an applicant's disciplinary record, subject to certain exceptions; and authorizing an institution of higher education to make inquiries into and consider information about a student's disciplinary record for discipline related to academic dishonesty.	Students with disabilities who experienced behavior disregulation in school may have faced discipline for their behavior. Often with time and treatment/positive behavioral intervention, once concerning behavior may resolve prior to the student exiting high school. They should not have their futures hindered by something that was the result of a behavioral health or other disabling condition.		
<a href="#">SB0252</a>		Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - Alterations	Chair EEE by request of Dept. of Emergency Management	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/25 at 2 PM	Letter of Information	Altering the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to authorize the use of certain allocated funds for the payment of the salary of certain personnel.	Letter of information to encourage the full implementation of Next Gen 911 and voluntary disclosure modules so first responders have critical information, provided by the individual, when responding to a call for help.		
<a href="#">HB0359</a>		Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person - Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings	Delegate J. Long et al.	In House JUD Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM	Support with Amendment	Requiring an automatic stay of certain civil actions or proceedings on the filing of a petition for guardianship of the property of an alleged disabled person; and requiring, to effectuate service of process for certain civil actions against an alleged disabled person, the temporary or permanent guardian of the property of the disabled person to be served.	Include protections for the filing of a petition for a change in guardianship		
<a href="#">HB0432</a>		Courts and Judicial Proceedings and Criminal Procedure - Technical Corrections - References to Intellectual Disability	Delegate Kaufman et al.	In House JUD Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM	Support	Replacing references to mental retardation with references to an intellectual disability in certain provisions of law.	Supporting as a continuation of Rosa's Law that was passed in 2009 but did not address courts and judicial proceedings statutes at the time.		

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes		
<a href="#">SB0495</a>		Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Plain Language Requirement	Senator Kagan	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring that a certain statement included on the signature page of a petition seeking to place a question on the ballot and a certain statement about the purpose of a question on the ballot be written in plain language reasonably calculated to be understood by an individual who has attained not higher than a grade 6 level of reading comprehension.	Coalition testimony		
<a href="#">HB00641</a>		Election Law - Curbside Voting	Delegate Williams and Wilkins	In House W&M First Meeting	Support	Requiring each local board of elections, at least 6 months prior to each statewide primary election, to designate an outside location for curbside voting, subject to the approval of the State Board; requiring a local board to take into account certain factors when determining a location for curbside voting; and establishing requirements governing curbside voting, including requirements related to the designation of curbside voting locations and how to vote at a curbside voting location.	Similar to a bill filed last year with slight differences to account for concerns raised with privacy, notifications, and access. Curbside voting would make it easier for people who have ambulation and mobility disabilities to vote from the comfort of a car.		
<a href="#">HB0318</a>	<a href="#">SB0373</a>	Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Mail Depository Key	Delegate Solomon et al.	In House JUD Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Support	Prohibiting the theft of mail from a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of a device used to open a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of mail with intent to commit identity theft; prohibiting the theft of mail from an elderly person or a vulnerable adult with intent to commit identity theft; and establishing penalties for violations of the Act.	Individuals with IDD and other disabilities fall victim to identity theft and mail fraud to a greater degree than people without disabilities, and often have greater difficulty addressing the identity theft and resolving it. We support increasing penalties for these crimes.		
<a href="#">SB0373</a>	<a href="#">HB0318</a>	Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Mail Depository Key	Senator Waldstreicher	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See Above		
<a href="#">SB0054</a>	<a href="#">HB0175</a>	Occupational Licensing and Certification – Criminal History – Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process	Senator Carter	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM and EEE First Reading	Support with Amendment	Altering certain provisions of law regarding the prohibition on certain departments of State government from denying an occupational license or certificate to an applicant solely on the basis of the criminal history of the applicant by prohibiting a department from requiring disclosure of certain actions on an application and establishing a predetermination review process; authorizing a department to change a criminal history review fee of no more than \$100 or to waive the fee under certain circumstances; etc.	We have some concerns with lack of protections in this legislation for occupations that would be working with vulnerable adults. Joint testimony with MACS		
<a href="#">HB0175</a>	<a href="#">SB0054</a>	Occupational Licensing and Certification – Criminal History – Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process	Delegate Harrison	In House EMC Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM	Support with Amendment	See above	See above		

### Monitored Bills by Topic

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes		
<b>Community Living &amp; Working</b>									
<a href="#">SB0070</a>		Transportation - Change in Bus Service - Impacts Report	Senator McCray	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration, before announcing any reduction or cancellation of an existing bus route or line, to compile a report on the impacts of the proposed service reduction or cancellation; requiring the Administration to publish the report on its website at least 30 days before the required public hearing on the proposed service change; and requiring the Administration to distribute the report to certain officials and entities.			
<a href="#">SB0077</a>	<a href="#">HB0111</a>	Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements	Senator Waldstreicher	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Authorizing a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless prohibited by local ordinance; and requiring a person riding a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area or in or through a crosswalk to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or a person using an electric personal assistive mobility device.	We are reviewing for elevated risks to people with IDD who may not follow a straight and predictable path on a sidewalk, therefore placing them at greater risk of injury.		
<a href="#">HB0111</a>	<a href="#">SB0077</a>	Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements	Delegate D. Jones	In House E&T Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Evaluating	See above	See above		
<a href="#">SB0086</a>	<a href="#">HB0218</a>	Income Tax - Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums (Long-Term Care Relief Act of 2024)	Senator Klausmeier	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/18 at 12 PM	Evaluating	Limiting eligibility for a credit against the State income tax for certain long-term care insurance premiums paid by a taxpayer for long-term care insurance purchased before January 1, 2005, to taxpayers who are at least 85 years old with a Maryland adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000 for an individual or \$200,000 for a joint filer; altering the maximum amount of the credit; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.	Evaluating to determine how a change in statute impact people with IDD under the age of 85 who would also like to be eligible for a credit against their state income tax for certain Long Term care insurance premiums.		
<a href="#">HB0218</a>	<a href="#">SB0086</a>	Income Tax - Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums (Long-Term Care Relief Act of 2024)	Delegate Stewart	In House W&M Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Evaluating	See above			

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes		
<a href="#">SB0197</a>	<a href="#">HB0039</a>	Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services	Senator Ellis	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to reimburse a residential service agency for personal assistance services only if the personal assistance services are provided by an individual classified as an employee.			
<a href="#">HB0039</a>	<a href="#">SB0197</a>	Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services	Delegate R. Lewis	In House HGO Hearing 1/24 at 1 PM	Evaluating	See above			
<a href="#">SB0200</a>		Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools	Senator Ellis	In Senate EEE First Reading	Monitoring	Requiring a county board of education each year to prepare and post to the county's website a report that identifies pathways that public school students may use to travel to school using only safe alternative routes under certain circumstances; requiring the governing body of a county each year to review a certain report and construct any sidewalks and crosswalks necessary to create safe alternative routes for public school students under certain circumstances; etc.			
<a href="#">HB0032</a>		Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit	Delegate Harrison	In House W&M Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Allowing certain caregivers a credit against the State income tax equal to 30% of certain qualified expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year that exceed \$2,000 to provide care or support to certain qualified family members; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.	Similar to Senator Benson's Caregiver Tax Credit bill but not considered a cross file- we are evaluating for any subtle differences		
<a href="#">HB0189</a>		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wage Reports (Homecare Workers Employment Act of 2024)	Delegate R. Lewis	In House HGO Hearing 1/24 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring provider agencies to submit certain reports to the Maryland Department of Labor regarding wage rates for personal care aides on or before September 1 each year, beginning in 2025; and requiring, by September 30, 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Maryland Department of Health to submit reports to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee regarding reimbursement rates for provider agencies and any recommended regulatory or legislative changes.	EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE, COMMUNITY OPTIONS, COMMUNITY PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES, AND ANY OTHER HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT. (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO PERSONAL CARE SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION.		
<a href="#">HB0195</a>		Public Safety - Missing Persons With Cognitive Impairment - Purple Alert Program	Delegate Guyton et al.	In House JUD Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Establishing a Purple Alert Program to disseminate information to assist in locating a missing person who suffers a cognitive impairment, intellectual or developmental disability, or brain injury who is not eligible for the Silver Alert Program.	We are still evaluating what this bill would do. The Silver Alert law currently applies to people with cognitive impairments (not just older adults with dementia) so it is currently unclear if a new alert is needed.		
<a href="#">HB0251</a>		Unemployment Insurance - Covered Employment - Employees of Governmental Entities or Charitable, Educational, or Religious Organizations	Chair EMC by request of Dept. of Labor	In House EMC First Reading	Evaluating	Specifying that certain limitations on the payment of benefits to employees of governmental entities or charitable, educational, or religious organizations do not apply with respect to service in other covered employment, including covered employment for a for-profit employing unit, even if the service is provided exclusively for a governmental entity or a charitable, educational, religious, or other organization.	The bill seems to extend unemployment insurance to temp agency employees working for charitable organizations (such as DD providers), among other industries. There is a question of how this insurance would be applied as the nature of these positions are that they do not guarantee set hours/set days of work. We would need to know how the unemployment would be charged to the non-profit when the employee is designated as "unemployed". We are seeking more information from the Department of Labor Secretary.		
<a href="#">SB0169</a>		Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund	Senator Kagan	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/17 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems; establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Fund; authorizing, in fiscal year 2026, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Fund; etc.			

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<a href="#">SB0328</a>		Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers (Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024)	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate B&T hearing on 1/24 at 1 PM	Monitoring	For the purpose of requiring that the Governor's proposed budget for certain fiscal years include a certain percentage reimbursement rate increase for providers of certain health care services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and the Community First Choice program; requiring nursing homes to annually submit a certain cost report to the Maryland Department of Health; requiring that a certain percentage of the funding increase for certain fiscal years be used to fund wages and benefits for certain workers; and generally relating to the reimbursement of service providers under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and the Community First Choice program.	While the bill refers to designation of a portion of the rates for certain services (M00Q01.03 and .07) be designated for wages of staff, and includes mandates for 8% funding increases for those services, the definition of "provider" includes "home and community based services". While other parts of the bill make fairly clear this would not apply to the DDA Waivers and HCBS, we do have concerns about a precedent for requiring that a certain percentage of the rate be designated to wages without a full examination of other operating costs and wage related expenses (benefits, payroll taxes, etc.) in a system that must also be covered through a rate. This examination is necessary to ensure legislation intended to resolve a workforce crisis and stabilize services does not have an opposite impact.		
<a href="#">HB0251</a>		Unemployment Insurance – Covered Employment – Employees of Governmental Entities or Charitable, Educational, or Religious Organizations	Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor)	In House EMC First Reading	Monitoring	FOR the purpose of specifying that certain limitations on the payment of benefits to employees of governmental entities or charitable, educational, or religious organizations do not apply with respect to service in other covered employment even if the service is provided exclusively for a governmental entity or a charitable, educational, religious, or other organization; and generally relating to eligibility to receive unemployment insurance benefits.	The bill seems to extend unemployment insurance to temp agency employees working for charitable organizations (such as DD providers), among other industries. There is a question of how this insurance would be applied as the nature of these positions are that they do not guarantee set hours/set days of work. We would need to know how the unemployment would be charged to the non-profit when the employee is designated as "unemployed". We are seeking more information from the Department of Labor Secretary.		
<a href="#">SB00599</a>	<a href="#">HB00509</a>	Developmental Disabilities – Community Providers – Federal Participation for Local Funds	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN First Reading	Evaluating	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a process to receive federal financial participation for the payment of county or municipal general funds appropriated to community providers that serve individuals with developmental disabilities; and requiring the Department to allocate the federal financial participation to the community providers to which the county or municipality general funds were appropriated.	We are exploring what implications may be for the rest of the state if Montgomery County became its own rate jurisdiction. The county has been looking into this for years as a way to have relief for a portion of the supplement they provide to organizations that support people with IDD in the county.		
<a href="#">HB00509</a>	<a href="#">SB00599</a>	Developmental Disabilities – Community Providers – Federal Participation for Local Funds	Delegates Kaiser et al.	In House HGO First Reading	Evaluating	see above	see above		
<a href="#">HB0547</a>		Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)	Delegates Alston et al.	In House JUD First Reading	Monitoring	Prohibiting a person from committing a crime of violence while the person is in an educational facility, a medical facility, or a place of worship (including related institutions such as IDD providers)	The DD Coalition has asked DRM to weigh in on possible consequences.		
<a href="#">HB0571</a>	<a href="#">SB0485</a>	Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications	Delegate Qi et al.	In House EMC Hearing 2/14 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Modifying provisions of law governing application, administration, and enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, including provisions related to the payment of contributions, the calculation of the average weekly wage, the submission of claims for benefits, the application of the Program to self-employed individuals, the satisfaction of Program requirements through private employer plans or insurance, and the use of contributions or other funding by the Secretary of Labor.	This bill moves the timeline back for implementation of the FAMLI insurance program back 6 months. It is our understanding that this change, if passed, will also trigger a removal of the appropriation for Medical provider reimbursement for the 6 months as well.		
<a href="#">SB0485</a>	<a href="#">HB0571</a>	Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications	Senator Hayes	In Senate FIN First Reading	Evaluating	see above	see above		
<a href="#">SB0347</a>		Medical Cannabis – Employees in Health Care Settings Caring for Qualifying Patients	Senator McKay	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Authorizing designated medical personnel to administer medical cannabis to qualifying patients only if the cannabis is obtained through the qualifying patients caregiver and is administered in accordance with the certifying provider's written instructions; providing that designated medical personnel are not required to register with the Maryland Cannabis Administration, and exempting designated medical personnel from civil and criminal penalties relating to the administration of medical cannabis.	We will be talking with our partners about this. While many people rely on medical cannabis for the treatment of seizures and other conditions, Cannabis, under Federal Law, is still illegal. We are concerned that this bill could have an impact on our Federal medicaid match if DSPs were authorized to administer Cannabis to people they support.		
<a href="#">SB0084</a>	<a href="#">HB0116</a>	Teacher Degree Apprenticeship	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Establishing the Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program in the Department of Labor to provide high school and college students, and career changers opportunities to begin a career in education; requiring the establishment of apprenticeships that develop career paths and to pay apprentices certain compensation; authorizing the Department of Labor to award up to \$500,000 to develop and launch a teacher apprenticeship program; requiring a sponsor to coordinate with the CTE Committee to develop a high school-level program; etc.	While this would be good to expand the Educator workforce, we need to ensure that apprentice students do not end up primarily in Special Education as a way to fill the critical positions there with qualified teachers.		
<a href="#">HB0116</a>	<a href="#">SB0084</a>	Teacher Degree Apprenticeship	Delegate Kerr	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM and EMC First Reading	Evaluating	See above			

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<a href="#">SB0208</a>		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wages	Senator Benson	In Senate FIN Hearing Canceled and B&T First Reading	Monitoring	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to increase the hourly reimbursement rate for certain personal assistance services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to a minimum of \$25 per hour; requiring provider agencies to pay the greater of \$16 per hour or 64% of the hourly reimbursement rate to personal care aides and to provide a written notice regarding the wage to personal care aides; requiring provider agencies to submit annual cost reports to the Department; etc.	While this doesn't appear to apply to DDA Waiver services, we have concerns about legislation that mandates a certain component of the rate be designated for wages, without a full examination into all of the costs of operating, including wage related expenses that accompany increases in wages such as unemployment, taxes, and benefits. The \$25 increase mandated in the bill will not cover the costs that would be incurred by residential service agencies to pay a \$16/wage.		
<a href="#">SB0212</a>		Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Alterations	Chair FIN by request of Dept. of Health	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Altering the membership and terms of members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council; requiring the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to meet jointly with the Council; and requiring the Commission, in coordination with the Council, to make recommendations regarding the financing structure and quality oversight necessary to integrate somatic and behavioral health services in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.			
<a href="#">SB0371</a>		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wage Reports (Homecare Workers Livable Wage Act of 2024)	Senator Lam	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring provider agencies to submit certain reports to the Maryland Department of Labor regarding wage rates for personal care aides on or before September 1 each year, beginning in 2025; and requiring, by September 30, 2024, and every 2 years thereafter, the Maryland Department of Health to submit reports to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee regarding reimbursement rates for provider agencies and any recommended regulatory or legislative changes.			
<a href="#">HB571</a>		Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications	Delegate Qi et al.	In the House - Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.	Evaluating	Modifying provisions of law governing application, administration, and enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, including provisions related to the payment of contributions, the calculation of the average weekly wage, the submission of claims for benefits, the application of the Program to self-employed individuals, the satisfaction of Program requirements through private employer plans or insurance, and the use of contributions or other funding by the Secretary of Labor.	This bill moves the timeline back for implementation of the FMLI insurance program back 6 months. It is our understanding that this change, if passed, will also trigger a removal of the appropriation for Medical provider reimbursement for the 6 months as well.		
<a href="#">HB0403</a>	<a href="#">SB0443</a>	End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)	Delegates Hill and Pena-Melnik et al.	In House HGO First Reading and JUD First Reading	Evaluating	Authorizing an individual to request aid in dying by making certain requests; establishing requirements and prohibitions governing aid in dying, including requirements related to requests for aid in dying, consulting physicians, mental health assessments, the disposal of drugs prescribed for aid in dying, health care facility policies, and the effect of aid in dying on insurance policies; authorizing a pharmacist to dispense medication for aid in dying only to certain individuals under certain circumstances; etc.			
<a href="#">SB0443</a>	<a href="#">HB0403</a>	End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)	Senators Waldstreicher and Lam et al.	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Evaluating	See above			
<b>Justice &amp; Civil Rights</b>									
<a href="#">SB0052</a>	<a href="#">HB0319</a>	Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024	Senatore Folden et al.	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to establish that the juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction over a child who is at least 10 years old alleged to have committed a crime involving the use or possession of a firearm; and altering a certain provision of law authorizing a law enforcement officer to conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if the child's parent, guardian, or custodian consents to the custodial interrogation of the child without the child's consultation with an attorney.	We are evaluating for how this would place children with intellectual and developmental disabilities at greater risk of entering the school to prison pipeline. We are evaluating with our partners.		
<a href="#">HB0319</a>	<a href="#">SB0052</a>	Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024	Delegates Kipke and Szeliga et al.	In House JUD First Reading	Evaluating	See above	See above		
<a href="#">SB0120</a>		Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation	Senator Watson et al.	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Authorizing a child to consult with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian instead of an attorney before a law enforcement officer may conduct a custodial interrogation of the child.			

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes		
<a href="#">SB0314</a>		Juvenile Law - Willful Misconduct of a Minor - Civil Liability of a Parent, Legal Guardian, or Custodian (Parental Accountability Act)	Senator Benson	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Establishing the joint and several civil liability of a parent, guardian, or custodian of a minor who commits an act of willful misconduct that results in the death or injury of an individual or damage to property, subject to a certain exception; requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to periodically adjust and publish certain maximum liability amounts; and limiting the liability of an insurance provider under the Act.	We have concerns about the application of the term "willful misconduct," and how this would be operationalized as it will impact students with disabilities who may, as a function of their disability, damage property or injure another. Their parents should not be held accountable for the child's behavior if or when that happens. There is no exclusion for students with disabilities. We will share these concerns with the Sponsor asap.		
<a href="#">HB0308</a>		Public Safety - Missing Person Reports - Collection and Publication	Delegate Healey	In House JUD Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring the Department of State Police to compile and report on its website information on missing person reports that is disaggregated by age, race, and reporting county, and provide the number of resolved missing persons reports in the preceding month; requiring a local law enforcement agency to provide certain information on missing person reports as required by the Department of State Police; and requiring the Department of State Police to adopt procedures for the collection of information from local law enforcement agencies.			
<a href="#">SB0381</a>	<a href="#">HB0047</a>	Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act)	Senator Carozza et al.	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/7 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools to be expressly designated based on biological sex; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school for maintaining separate interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams and sports for students of the female sex; and providing that certain individuals have the right to bring a civil action under certain circumstances.			
<a href="#">HB0047</a>	<a href="#">SB0381</a>	Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act)	Delegate Szeliga et al.	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Monitoring	See above			
<a href="#">HB0368</a>	SB0666	Human Relations - Discrimination by a Place of Public Accommodation	Delegate Cullison	In House HGO Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Authorizing certain persons or the Commission on Civil Rights to elect to have the claims asserted in a complaint alleging discrimination by a place of public accommodation determined in a civil action brought by the Commission; expanding the remedies available for certain discrimination; clarifying the remedies available for an unlawful employment practice; authorizing a complainant alleging certain discrimination to bring a civil action under certain circumstances; etc.	Need to ask Delegate Cullison more information about why this bill is needed and how it will impact people with IDD		
SB0666	<a href="#">HB0368</a>	Human Relations - Discrimination by a Place of Public Accommodation	Senator Charles	In House JPR First Reading	Evaluating	See above	See above		
<a href="#">HB00698</a>		Estates and Trusts - Guardianship of the Person of a Disabled Person - Expedited Proceedings	Delegates Bartlett and Pena-Menlyk	In House JUD First Reading	Evaluating	Requiring a court to rule on petitions to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person in order to seek transfer or discharge of a disabled person from a hospital within 10 days; and requiring that hearings to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person be held virtually unless the party seeking appointment requests that the hearing be held in person	We agree that hospital overstays are an issue, but disagree that this is the remedy for people with IDD. Guardianship reviews are important and should be done in the time needed to gather all pertinent information. To mandate that reviews should be expedited for people with disabilities could result in more people with IDD remanded to guardianships, instead of having the opportunity to exercise alternatives to guardianship such as Supported Decision Making, exhausting these options prior to the consideration of a guardianship appointment. We will be discussing our concerns with the Sponsors in hopes we can arrive at a solution to the problem they seek to resolve.		

[To find contact information for your representatives, click here.](#)

#### COMMITTEES

Click each committee or Name for Details and Contact Information

#### House Committees

Abreviation	Committee Name	Committee Chair	Committee Vice Chair
APP	Appropriations	<a href="#">Ben Barnes</a>	<a href="#">Mark S. Chang</a>
EMC	Economic Matters	<a href="#">C.T. Wilson</a>	<a href="#">Brian M. Crosby</a>
E&T	Environment and Transportation	<a href="#">Marc Korman</a>	<a href="#">Regina T. Boyce</a>
HGO	Health and Government Operations	<a href="#">Joseline Pena-Menlyk</a>	<a href="#">Bonnie Cullison</a>
HRU	Rules and Executive Nominations	<a href="#">Anne Healey</a>	<a href="#">Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.</a>
JUD	Judiciary	<a href="#">Luke Clippinger</a>	<a href="#">J. Sandy Bartlett</a>

#### LEADERSHIP

Click each Name for Details and Contact Information

#### House Leadership

Title	Representative
Speaker of the House	<a href="#">Adrienne A. Jones</a>
Speaker Pro Tem	<a href="#">Dana Stein</a>
Majority Leader	<a href="#">David Moon</a>
Majority Whip	<a href="#">Jazz Lewis</a>
Minority Leader	<a href="#">Jason C. Buckell</a>
Minority Whip	<a href="#">Jesse T. Pippy</a>

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 Communications and Engagement, at [lchause@thearcmd.org](mailto:lchause@thearcmd.org). Last Updated 1/29/24

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes		
	<a href="#">W&amp;M</a>	<a href="#">Ways and Means</a>	<a href="#">Vanessa E. Alterbeary</a>	<a href="#">Jheanelle Wilkins</a>					
<b>Senate Committees</b>									
<b>Senate Leadership</b>									
Abreviation	Committee Name	Committee Chair	Committee Vice Chair		Title	Senator			
<a href="#">B&amp;T</a>	<a href="#">Budget and Taxation</a>	<a href="#">Guy Guzzone</a>	<a href="#">Jim Rosapepe</a>		<a href="#">President of the Senate</a>	<a href="#">Bill Ferguson</a>			
<a href="#">EEE</a>	<a href="#">Education, Energy, and the Environment</a>	<a href="#">Brian Feldman</a>	<a href="#">Cheryl C Kagan</a>		<a href="#">President Pro Tem</a>	<a href="#">Malcolm Augustine</a>			
<a href="#">EXN</a>	<a href="#">Executive Nominations</a>	<a href="#">Antonio Hayes</a>	<a href="#">Clarence Lam</a>		<a href="#">Majority Leader</a>	<a href="#">Nancy J. King</a>			
<a href="#">FIN</a>	<a href="#">Finance</a>	<a href="#">Pamela Beidle</a>	<a href="#">Katherine Klausmeier</a>		<a href="#">Majority Whip</a>	<a href="#">Joanne C. Benson</a>			
<a href="#">JPR</a>	<a href="#">Judicial Proceedings</a>	<a href="#">William C. Smith, Jr.</a>	<a href="#">Jeff Waldstreicher</a>		<a href="#">Minority Leader</a>	<a href="#">Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.</a>			
<a href="#">SRU</a>	<a href="#">Rules</a>	<a href="#">Shelly Hettleman</a>	<a href="#">C. Anthony Muse</a>		<a href="#">Minority Whip</a>	<a href="#">Justin Ready</a>			