

| 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 First Reading 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 Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM EMC | In Senate Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM FIN | 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. | | |
| HB0203 | | Community Parks and Playgrounds Program – Baltimore County and Howard County – Expansion | Delegate Hettleman et al | In House Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM 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 Hearing 2/4 at 1 PM E&T | In Senate Favorable with Amendments Report JPR | Support with coalition testimony | The bill prevents source of income discrimination and other forms of discrimination that create barriers to housing acquisition and maintenance. | | |
| 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. | | |

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| HB0312 | SB0473 | Discrimination in Employment - Reasonable Accommodations for Applicants With Disabilities | Delegate Charkoudian et al/ Senator Lam et al | In House Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM 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 Hearing 2/25 at 1 PM 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). | | |
| 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 | In Senate Hearing 1/29 at 1 PM B&T | 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 individual 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 .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 backfilling vacancies of those individuals taking leave, additional administrative expenses to tract employee hours, etc since the requirements for taking this leave do not align with FMLA. | | |

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| 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. | | |
| Education & Childcare | | | | | | | | | |
| | SB0078 | Public Schools – Student Discipline Regulations – Remedial Measures | Senator Hough | | In Senate Hearing 1/22 at 1 PM 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 deseggregated 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 Hearing Cancelled | | Support | The Bill would require data to be deseggregated for students supported under the IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. | | |
| 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. | | |
| 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 ettiquite. The Arc Maryland's position is that this training would contribute to the success of students with I/DD to enter the workforce. | | |

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| | 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. | | |
| 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 Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M | 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 | | |
| HB0769 | SB0133 | Education – High School Students – Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training | Delegate Adams et al/ Senators West and McCray | In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M | In Senate Hearing 2/4 at 1 PM 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. | | |
| | SB0853 | Education - Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program | Senators Patterson and Benson | | 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. | | |

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| | 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. | | |
| HB1043 | | Education - Physical Restraint and Seclusion - Guidelines and Reporting | Delegates Wilkins, Cain, and Guyton | In Hoiuse Hearimg 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 3/10 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. | | |
| 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 | In Senate Hearing 1/21 at 1:30 PM EHEA *Open briefing on Wednesday, 1/29 in EHEA at 4PM as a follow up to the hearing and controversy. | 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. | | |

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| 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. | | |
| 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 | | | |
| 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 | In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM FIN | 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. | | |
| HB0643 | SB701 | End-of-Life Option Act (Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer Act) | Delegate Pendergrass et al | In House First Reading HGO and JUD | | 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 | In Senate Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM EHEA | 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 practioner 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). | | |
| 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 | | In Senate Hearing 1/21 at 1:30 PM EHEA | 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. | | |

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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 First Reading 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 | In House Hearing 2/4 at 1 PM JUD | 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." | | |
| 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 entitites 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 | | | |

| 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 | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| HB0396 | | Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening for Developmental Disabilities | Delegate Guyton et al | In House Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM W&M | | Gathering more information | 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. | | |
| 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 | In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM FIN | Gathering more information | Bill dictates what the list (that is already mandated to be created once a year) includes comprehensive crisis response centers, crisis stabiliation 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. | | |
| 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. | | |

| 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 | In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM EHEA | 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. | | |
| 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. | | |

| Bill | | Title | Primary Sponsor | Status | | Position | Notes | Amendments | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|------------|--------|
| House | Senate | | | House | Senate | | | House | Senate |
| 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 | | | |
| HB0477 | | Estates and Trusts – Guardianship of the Property of Disabled Persons – Court–Appointed Attorneys | Delebate Dumais | In House Hearing 2/12 at 1 PM JUD | | 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 | | |
| 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 Hearing 2/19 at 1 PM JUD | 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. | | |