

The Arc Maryland brings you an updated version of our Bill Tracker at the start of every week during Maryland's Legislative Session. Legislation in this document includes items that The Arc Maryland has taken a position on and other items that we are currently monitoring. **You can view the full bill text by clicking the link provided with each bill number in the leftmost column.** For any questions about the Bill Tracker, please email Luc Chausse, Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at [lchausse@thearcmd.org](mailto:lchausse@thearcmd.org). **Last Updated 2/1/21**

Bill		Title	Sponsor		Status		Position	Notes
House	Senate		House Bill	Senate Bill	House Bill	Senate Bill		
Budget								
<a href="#">HB0588</a>	<a href="#">SB0491</a>	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2022)	Speaker of the House by request of the administration	Senate President by request of the administration	In House First Reading APP	In House First Reading B&T	Support	The bill appears to contain full appropriation for DDA Community Services 4%. The draft budget also includes appropriations for the Waiting List, LISS, Transitioning Youth (usual appropriation), but no new Autism Waiver slots
<a href="#">HB0589</a>	<a href="#">SB0493</a>	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2021	Speaker of the House by request of the administration	Senate President by request of the administration	In House First Reading APP	In House First Reading B&T	No Position	
Current Positions on Bills by Topic								
Community Living & Working								
<a href="#">HB0612</a>	<a href="#">SB0496</a>	Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act	Speaker of the House by request of the administration	Senate President by request of the administration	In House Hearing 2/4 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Laid Over		There are additional adjustments being made by the Senate to provide additional support for providers and special education. We should have more information this week.
<a href="#">HB0056</a>	<a href="#">SB0473</a>	Labor and Employment - Leave With Pay - Bereavement Leave	Delegate Boyce	Senator Washington	In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Letter of Information	The bill requires paid bereavement leave to be provided to employees under certain circumstances. While the principal of the bill not something we take issue with, it would present an unfunded mandate and does not current carry a provision for increase in funding for DD providers and people who self-direct to cover the additional leave expense.
<a href="#">HB0255</a>		Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs - Funding	Delegates Hill, Ebersole, Feldmark, Korman, and Lierman		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 PM APP		Support	Bill advanced last session, but no funding was put in the budget to support the grants.
<a href="#">HB0318</a>	<a href="#">SB0441</a>	Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services (Self - Direction Act)	Delegate Young	Senator Lee	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM FIN	Support with DD Coalition Testimony	Bill preserves self directed services components that are important to many people.
<a href="#">HB0375</a>	<a href="#">SB0211</a>	Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)	Delegate Valderrama	Senator Hayes	In House Hearing 2/23 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 1 PM FIN	Support with Amendment. Funding is a concern	The Arc supports the intention of this bill and the establishment of an insurance program that would be created to allow for paid family leave. We have concerns about the expense to DDA providers and people who self-direct, as well as some of the definitions included in the bill. Without a provision for DD Provider funding to support this new benefit, the program would amount to an unfunded mandate for both providers and staff.

	<a href="#">SB0064</a>	Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19		Senator Salling		In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM FIN	Support	<a href="#">Other nonprofits and all for-profit employers' contributions are based on two factors -- their own 'experience rating' and the state tax table for that year. The Governor's action in December will moderate contribution/tax increases based on employers' own experience ratings, that would otherwise begin in April of 2021. But regardless of employers' experience, the fact that the Trust Fund itself has been substantially depleted will require - by law - that a much higher 'tax table' apply for 2021 in order to begin replenishing the Fund. This higher table will significantly increase the costs for all contributing employers, regardless of their experience ratings - even those with no layoffs. Read more here.</a>
<a href="#">HB0511</a>		Income Tax - Personal Exemption - Disabled Individuals	Delegate Valentino-Smith		In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Supports extension of tax exemption of additional 1K for people with Physical Disabilities as a natural extension of Blindness (considered a physical disability).
	<a href="#">SB0307</a>	Labor and Employment - Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program		Senator Guzzone		In Senate Hearing 1/21 at 1 PM FIN	Support	It appears this bill WOULD include DD Provider Staff as Direct Support Professionals. Support with coalition testimony
<a href="#">HB0718</a>		State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs - Mandated Appropriation	Delegate Guyton		In House First Reading APP		Support	The law to create this position is currently in place (passed last year) but there has been no appropriation to support this position. This bill requires an annual appropriation
<a href="#">HB0786</a>		Department of Human Services, Maryland Department of Health, and Department of Education - Easing Access to Family Support Programs	Delegate Kaiser		In House First Reading APP		Support	Parents currently have to navigate a maze of applications and eligibility and this initiative would endeavor to create a one stop shop for families to obtain needed benefits and services.
	<a href="#">SB0388</a>	Vehicle Registration - Disability Plates - Parking Meter Fees		Senator Cassilly		In Senate Hearing 2/10 at 1 PM JPR	Support	Would make it so that people with disability plates would not have to pay parking meter fees regardless of whether spaces are accessible
Education & Childcare								
<a href="#">HB0059</a>	<a href="#">SB0147</a>	Task Force on Higher Education Students With Chronic Health Conditions	Delegate Pena-Melnyk	Senator Feldmark	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM APP	In Senate Hearing 1/20 at 11 AM EHEA	Support with Sponsor Amendment	The sponsor's vision is a Maryland where all students striving for a higher education degree suffering from chronic conditions have the support they need to be successful. This bill will establish a task force to recommend best practices and legislation to best protect this population of students. In the bill as amended, a chronic health condition will be re-defined as a physical, DEVELOPMENTAL, behavioral, or emotional condition.
<a href="#">HB0097</a>	<a href="#">SB0066</a>	Department of Housing and Community Development - Office of Digital Inclusion - Established (Digital Connectivity Act of 2021)	Delegate Lierman et al.	Senator Elfreh et al.	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM EHEA	Support	There has been a great inability for children to access virtual education due to gaps in service and income. This needs to be addressed for equity in access. This bill would establish an Office of Digital Inclusion in the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that every resident of the State is supported by high-quality broadband Internet service at an affordable price and has the tools necessary to use and take advantage of the Internet.
<a href="#">HB0155</a>	<a href="#">SB0098</a>	County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition	Delegate Wilkins	Senator McCray	In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 11 AM JPR	Support with Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony	Would create protections against discrimination of children with disabilities in policies related to admissions and educational services.

<a href="#">HB0171</a>		State Department of Education - School Discipline - Data Collection	Delegate Washington		In House Favorable Report from W&M		Support	Requires desegregated data on discipline separated by race, grade level, ethnicity, special services (including special education) and disciplinary practices employed.
<a href="#">HB0143</a>	<a href="#">SB0218</a>	Maryland Child Tax Credit	Delegate Palakovich Carr	Senator King	In House Hearing 1/14 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM B&T	Support	This would allow certain taxpayers to claim a credit against the state income tax for certain dependent children under certain circumstances; defining a qualified dependent as a child that is under the age of 6 years OR is under the age of 17 years and is a child with a disability.
<a href="#">HB0237</a>	<a href="#">SB0126</a>	State Department of Education - Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices - Guidance and Assistance	Delegate Ebersole	Senators Hester and Zucker	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Support with Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony	
<a href="#">HB0273</a>	<a href="#">SB0266</a>	Education - Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program	Delegate Turner	Senators Patterson and Benson	In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Oppose	The bill would create a “voluntary ethical special education advocate certificate program.” The purpose of the bill is unclear. “Advocate” is not defined, and it is not clear who the bill is intended to encompass. Second, the bill would allow “advocates” who complete a webinar or online training module to obtain a certificate of completion, but the content and length of the webinar or module are not specified. There is no reason to assume that a person who completes the webinar or training module would, by virtue of having received a certificate of completion, have reached any particular level of achievement or would automatically be an “ethical special education advocate.” Third, because the program is voluntary, there is no guarantee that “advocates” who may be in need of the training envisioned by the bill sponsors would avail themselves of it. The bill is vague and would have no practical meaning if enacted. In fact, the bill might have the unintended consequence of leading people to believe that an advocate who possesses a certificate of completion of the program is more qualified than he or she actually is.
<a href="#">HB0370</a>	<a href="#">SB0225</a>	Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)	Delegate Kerr	Senators Young and Feldman	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/20 at 3 PM EHEA	Support	Would require training of all school personnel including bus drivers on seizures and select staff would be trained to provide emergency first aid to students experiencing seizures.
<a href="#">HB0392</a>		Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening and Assistance	Delegate Guyton		In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	This is a repeat bill from last session that would increase childhood screening for early identification and intervention.
<a href="#">HB0405</a>		Special Education - Judicial Actions - Attorney's Fees and Related Costs	Delegate Lopez		In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	This bill would create a mechanism for judges to award expert witness fee recovery to parents when they are the prevailing party in a Special Ed case. The law currently allows for the award of attorney's fees to prevailing parents, but families have the burden of assuming expert witness expenses and many families cannot afford the expense of having expert witnesses while the school system regularly brings experts in at state taxpayer expense.
<a href="#">HB0724</a>	<a href="#">SB0209</a>	Special Education - Prolonged School Closure - Extension of Education Services	Delegate Guyton	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/12 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Support	This bill would require a county board of education to offer and provide to certain disabled and special education students (whose schools are subject to a prolonged school closure) the option to continue attending school or receiving education services after the student's anticipated graduation date. Furthermore, the bill would require a county board to provide a notice to the parents or guardians of eligible students about a student's option to continue attending school or receiving certain education services.

<a href="#">HB0714</a>	<a href="#">SB0300</a>	Special Education - Learning Continuity Plan - Requirement	Delegate Guyton	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Support	This bill would require an individualized education program or 504 Plan to include a learning continuity portion to be developed by the team, including the parents of the child as equal partners to the process. The component of the plan would be developed by the members of the child's IEP or 504 plan team at the time of the plan review and serve as a guide to ensure continuity of services and supports needed by the student to continue to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) during emergency conditions - when the child is unable to access the school building for 10 days or more. This bill would become effective on October 1, 2021.
<a href="#">HB0716</a>	<a href="#">SB0371</a>	Special Education - Individualized Education Programs - Educational Evaluations	Delegate Griffith	Senator Peters	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM EHEA	Support	This bill would create a mechanism for parents to obtain an evaluation paid for by the school in cases where the school has not provided the evaluation within prescribed timeframes. This has been critical for families during the pandemic as they have not been able to have their children evaluated or re-evaluated for education access supports.
<a href="#">HB0522</a>		Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Prohibited Conduct	Delegate Washington		In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	This bill would prevent school administration from directing a school resource officer (SRO) to enforce discipline-related school policies, rules, regulations or procedures and would also prevent an SRO from intervening to enforce discipline.
<a href="#">HB0547</a>	<a href="#">SB0485</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams	Delegate R. Lewis	Senator Augustine	In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM FIN	Support	Expands payment to allow for more frequent cleaning appointments as indicated to be needed by dentists.
<a href="#">HB0621</a>		Prince George's County - Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act) PG 504-21	PG County Delegation		In House Hearing 2/5 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	It is well established that children benefit from daily physical activity and there are profound benefits for children with sensory needs who, when allowed to jump and swing (proprioceptive), are more ready to learn after these activities.
<a href="#">HB0765</a>		Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - Novel Coronavirus (Essential Workers' Compensation Act)	Delegate Terrasa		In House First Reading EMC		Oppose	The bill states that employees of certain industries who contract Covonavirus will be presumed to have contracted the virus on the job. We know that COVID is unusually high on the transmission scale, and many people contract the virus through the course of every day life, despite wearing masks and taking other precautions. It would be a mistake to make the assumption that an employee who has COVID contracted it at work when they could have contracted the virus at the grocery store or other place.
Health Care								
	<a href="#">SB0096</a>	Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities - Safety and Community Relations Plans		Senator McCray		In Senate Hearing 1/26 at 1 PM FIN	Letter of Information	While the safety plan component of the bill is a positive development, the community communication plan is concerning. People with disabilities have the right to access the community and be in and of the community with preservation of privacy. NIMBY is a going concern, and it is possible this bill would fan that fire.
<a href="#">HB0368</a>	<a href="#">SB0100</a>	Task Force on Oral Health in Maryland	Delegate Bangall	Senator Kelley	In House Hearing 1/19 at 2 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/3 at 1 PM FIN	Support with Coalition Testimony	Creates a task force to look at equity in access to dental care
<a href="#">HB0463</a>	<a href="#">SB0172</a>	Maryland Health Equity Resource Act	Delegate Barron	Senator Hayes et al.	In House Hearing 2/2 at 3:45 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM B&T	Support	
<a href="#">HB0123</a>	<a href="#">SB0003</a>	Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021	Delegates Pena-Melnyk, Lewis, Stein, and Wilson	Senator Griffith et al.	In House Hearing 1/27 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM FIN	Support	Telehealth has been critical for people with disabilities and the ability of providers in our system to support people through this virtual mechanism has been important for continuity of services and supports.

<a href="#">HB0548</a>	<a href="#">SB0299</a>	Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training	Delegate R. Lewis	Senator Carter	In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Support	This bill would create a Trauma Informed Care Commission.
<a href="#">HB0636</a>	<a href="#">SB0546</a>	School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)	Delegate Solomon	Senator McCray	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM E&T	In Senate First Reading EHEA	Support	Altering the definition of "elevated level of lead" for purposes of certain provisions of law requiring the periodic testing for the presence of lead in drinking water outlets in occupied public and nonpublic school buildings. Lead poisoning causes I/DD in some children.
Justice and Civil Rights								
<a href="#">HB0069</a>		Environment - Single-Use Plastics - Restrictions	Delegate Love		In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM EMC		Support with DD Coalition Testimony	Contains changes that we requested to allow for people with disabilities to obtain straws upon request and training/outreach.
<a href="#">HB0090</a>		State and Local Housing Programs - Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing	Delgate Lierman		In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM E&T		Support	Creates opportunity to track waiting lists and ensure there is adequate fair housing stock for people with very low income and accessible housing needs.
<a href="#">HB0153</a>		Election Law- Voting by Mail	Delegates Ivey and Henson		In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Improves access to exercising voting rights for people with disabilities.
<a href="#">HB0203</a>	<a href="#">SB0519</a>	Estates and Trusts - Wills and Advance Medical Directives - Notaries Public	Delegate C. Jackson	Senator Klausmeier	In House Hearing 2/4 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM JPR	Oppose with Coalition Testimony	Would create another barrier to People with IDD to name a healthcare decision maker without having to locate a notary and prove capacity.
<a href="#">HB0234</a>	<a href="#">SB0607</a>	Criminal Law - Harm to Service Animals	Delegate Williams	Senator Jackson	In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate First Reading JPR	Support	Protects service animals from harm by imposing severe penalties on those who harm or kill a service animal.
<a href="#">HB0245</a>		Election Judges - Training and Signs - Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance	Delegate Hill		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Improves access to exercising voting rights for people with disabilities.
<a href="#">HB0247</a>		Election Law - Voting Order Priority - Individuals Who Need Extra Assistance	Delegate Guyton		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 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.
<a href="#">HB0321</a>	<a href="#">SB0061</a>	Public Buildings - Changing Facilities - Requirements	Delgate Ebersole	Senator Lam	In House Favorable Report HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 11 AM JPR	Support	This bill creates a requirement for newly constructed or extensively remodeled public buildings to provide changing stations suitable to hold the weight of an adult.
<a href="#">HB0347</a>		Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence	Delegate Shetty		In House Hearing 1/14 at 1:30 PM JUD		Support	<p>WHY is this legislation important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a fact that some adults with disabilities are vulnerable and at risk of a range of exploitative or coercive behaviors including financial, physical or emotional abuse.</li> <li>• The Attorney's General office notes that abuses against vulnerable adults are escalating in our communities. Even more troubling is that for every case of abuse that is reported to authorities, experts estimate that as many as five cases go unreported.</li> </ul> <p>• Those who are elderly, or have significant support needs are at an increased risk of losing their assets to those exerting undue influence on them.</p> <p>This legislation redefines the term "undue influence" and adds factors the court must consider when determining whether property was obtained from a person with disabilities by undue influence.</p>

<a href="#">HB0423</a>	<a href="#">SB0271</a>	Election Law - Voting Systems - Accessibility for Voters With Disabilities	Delegate Feldmark		In House Hearing 2/2 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate First Reading EHEA	Support with DD Coalition Testimony	This bill would require each voter to use a ballot marking device that is accessible to voters with disabilities to vote at early voting centers and election day polling places to ensure that access is provided to voters with disabilities in accordance with a certain provision of law; prohibiting certain ballots from being set apart or distinguishable, in size and form, to ensure that access is provided to voters with disabilities in accordance with a certain provision of law; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to voting systems and accessibility for voters with disabilities.
<a href="#">HB0493</a>		Election Law - Voting Locations - Accessibility by Public Transportation and Voters With Disabilities	Delegate Guyton		In House Hearing 2/2 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	Would require that absentee ballot boxes be accessible by a person using a wheelchair and that County Boards place priority of voting locations to those within 500 feet of public transportation.
	<a href="#">SB0327</a>	Civil Actions - Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults (Maryland SAFE Act)		Senator Waldstreicher		In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM JPR	Support with DD Coalition Testimony	Creates civil penalties for those who financially exploit people with disabilities.
<a href="#">HB0338</a>		Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training	Delegate Ebersole		In House Hearing 1/19 at 1:30 PM EMC		Support with Amendment	We want to make sure training includes data on victimization and trafficking of people with disabilities so innkeepers can identify possible victimization.
<a href="#">HB0500</a>		Police Procedures - Requiring a Person to Lie Prone	Delegate Rosenberg		In House Hearing 2/12 at 1:30 PM JUD		Support	Some people with certain disabilities such as Down Syndrome are at dramatically increased risk of injury or death if they are restrained in a prone position.
<a href="#">HB0508</a>	<a href="#">SB0210</a>	COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity	Delegate Attar	Senators West, Carozza, Hester, and Peters	In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 1/26 at 1 PM JPR	Letter of information	Would provide immunity for providers and potentially people who self direct from civil liability for claims from people that they contracted COVID in the line of duty. This bill also has other implications for people with disabilities who may have been the victim of improper treatment, and who wish to exercise their rights for remedy- If this bill should pass as broadly written, they would be denied this right and that is something The Arc Maryland cannot support.
<a href="#">HB0656</a>		Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Accessibility by Public Transportation	Delegate Crosby		In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM W&M		Support	There is a significant portion of the population of people with disabilities who rely on public transportation. We support the requirement that a percentage of early voting centers be located within a short distance of public transportation stops.

## Bills We Are Monitoring or Evaluating by Topic

### Community Living & Working

<a href="#">HB0055</a>		Immunities - Associations, Organizations, and Charities - Liability of Agents and Volunteers	Delegate Crosby		In House Hearing 1/15 at 1:30 JUD		Evaluating	The bill could provide protections via continued insurance coverages for DDA providers from organizational liability due to the unforeseen behavior of a volunteer
	<a href="#">SB0107</a>	Labor and Employment - Secure Maryland Wage Act		Senator Hayes		In Senate Hearing 1/28 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	
<a href="#">HB0124</a>		Occupational Safety and Health Standards to Protect Employees - Aerosol Transmissible Diseases and COVID-19	Delegate Valderama		In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM EMC		Evaluating for Possible LOI or Oppose	Defines employer as having one employee so it would impact people who self direct and are employer of record.



<a href="#">HB0141</a>	<a href="#">SB0275</a>	Maryland Department of Health - Residential Service Agencies - Training Requirements	Delegate Sample-Hughes	Senators Hester and Hayes	In House Hearing 1/19 at 2 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/4 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	The bill requires residential service agencies to ensure staff receive training on dementia and related conditions within 45 days of hire. At this time, it does not appear that DDA residential service agencies are included in the definition, but that could change and so we will monitor.
<a href="#">HB0350</a>		Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Verification	Delegate Adams	Senators Hester and Hayes	In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM EMC		Evaluating for Possible LOI or Oppose	Prohibits employers from requiring certain documentation for to or after confirming eligibility for paid absences of employees.
<a href="#">HB0581</a>	<a href="#">SB0486</a>	Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act)	Delegate D.E. Davis	Senator Augustine et al.	In House Hearing 2/5 at 11 AM EMC	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating with Coalition Partners	Direct Support Professionals are essential and should be provided with appropriate PPE, communication, safety considerations for their working environments, and other rights. We are concerned with the overly broad nature of who is included in the list of essential workers, the absence of any funding mechanism for the pay and benefits required through this bill, and other provisions. We also have concerns that virtually any incident or occurrence could trigger this law to go into effect as the definition is also broad. Individuals who self-direct would be considered essential employers under the current definition as well.
	SB0610	Lodging Establishments - Accessible Rooms for Individuals With Disabilities - Deadlines		Senator Cassilly		In Senate First Reading FIN	Evaluating	Text is not yet available on this bill, but it appears sponsor may be asking to move timeline for compliance back. If that is the case, The Arc Maryland will oppose.
Education & Childcare								
<a href="#">HB0027</a>		Education - Reporting Arrests of Students - Alterations	Delegate Long		In House Hearing 1/28 at 1:30 PM JUD		Monitoring	Specifically mentions non-public schools. Monitoring to see if it has implications for people with I/DD.
<a href="#">HB0342</a>		Education - Health and Safety of Students - Notification of Problematic Student Behavior	Delegate Wilson		In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0266</a>		Student Education Equity Grant Program - Established (Student Education Equity in Funding Act)	Delegate Cox		In House Hearing 2/3 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating	May be problematic if it requires appropriation to more BOOST slots as there are no protections yet in admissions policies for discrimination against children who have disabilities.
<a href="#">HB0713</a>	<a href="#">SB0409</a>	County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools	Delegate Guyton	Senator Kramer	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM EHEA	Evaluating	Although The Arc recognizes the importance of support animals, the bill is vague on exactly what the cost of this program would be and whether it would deflect from other priorities and funding. Also does not state how children with severe pet allergies would be accommodated
	<a href="#">SB0464</a>	Education - Educational Interpreter - Certification Requirements		Senator West		In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM EHEA	Monitoring	Only concern is with possible unintended consequence of creating a shortage of certified interpreters. Without additional provisions to create more funding for trainers and campaigns to bring people into the field.
<a href="#">HB0715</a>		Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices	Delegate Guyton		In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0764</a>		Education - Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program - Established and Mandated Funding	Delegate Kittleman		In House Hearing 2/12 at 1:30 PM W&M		Evaluating for Opposition	Not sure there are protections against admissions policies that could discriminate against students with disabilities.
Health Care								
<a href="#">HB0078</a>	<a href="#">SB0052</a>	Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)	Delegates Pena-Melnyk, Lewis, Crutchfield, Wilkins, and Williams	Senator Washington	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	

<a href="#">HB0393</a>	<a href="#">SB0012</a>	Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Health	Delegates Barron, Crutchfield, and Pena-Melnyk	Senator Hettleman	In House Favorable Report from HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/21 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	Removes this office from under DOH and makes it independent.
	<a href="#">SB0322</a>	Health - Health and Wellness Standards - Correctional Facilities and Health Care Facilities		Senator Benson		In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0028</a>	<a href="#">SB0005</a>	Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities	Delegates Pena-Melnyk and Lewis	Senators Griffith, Benson, Ellis, Kelley, Washington, and West	In House Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	Does not specifically mention disabilities as a minority group who has been impacted by implicit bias.
<a href="#">HB0276</a>		Congregate Care Facilities - Visitation	Delegate Henson		In House Hearing 2/2 at 3:45 PM HGO		Monitoring	Recognize importance of visitation. Concern is not with that as this has been an advocacy point, but want to make sure there are considerations for visitation during public health emergencies.
<a href="#">HB0537</a>	<a href="#">SB0398</a>	Mental Health Law - Petitions for Emergency Evaluation - Procedures	Delegate Ruth	Senator Carter	In House Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM FIN	Monitoring	
<a href="#">HB0551</a>	<a href="#">SB0393</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services	Delegate Bagnall	Senator Augustine	In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0598</a>	<a href="#">SB0469</a>	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Applied Behavior Analysis Services - Reimbursement	Delegate Kelly	Senator Washington	In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/10 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0652</a>	<a href="#">SB0384</a>	Health Facilities - Residential Service Agencies - Guidance and Reporting	Delegate Qi	Senator Kelley	In House First Reading HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0673</a>	<a href="#">SB0542</a>	State Health Care Facilities - Employees - Alternative Workweeks	Delegate Valentino-Smith	Senator Eckardt	In House Hearing 2/1 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/18 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	Does not appear to include DD facilities, but rather state operated institutions.
	<a href="#">SB0579</a>	Health Care Facilities - Restrooms - Requirements		Senator Kagan		In Senate First Reading FIN	Evaluating	This bill text is not yet available. We have concerns about definition of Health Care Facilities as they may include group homes. If that is the case, it should be noted that most group homes are rented by providers, and all are soon to be rented by people with IDD. Requiring automatic doors and papertowel dispensers is not required in most settings and is dependent on the people who live there.
Justice and Civil Rights								
	<a href="#">SB0245</a>	Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Requirements and Prohibitions		Senator Ellis		In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 11 AM EHEA	Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0132</a>	<a href="#">SB0041</a>	Health - Mental and Emotional Disorders - Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)	Delegate Bagnall	Senator Augustine	In House Hearing 2/16 at 1:30 PM HGO	In Senate Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM FIN	Evaluating	
<a href="#">HB0227</a>	<a href="#">SB0363</a>	Courts - Improperly Summoning a Police Officer - Civil Liability	Delegate Charles	Senator McCray	In House Hearing 1/20 at 1:30 PM JUD	In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM JPR	Evaluating	Some people, due to the nature of their disability, summon police officers out of fear or an attempt to communicate. While other tools and methods to communicate are being explored with the individual, we would not want the individual to be fined when matters such as this arise.
<a href="#">HB0238</a>		Criminal Procedure - Automatic Expungement	Delegate Wells		In House First Reading JUD		Evaluating	Have concerns as even seemingly minor convictions for theft of small amounts for example would have implications for vulnerable adults. May support an amendment to change auto expungement to auto shielding for all employers except our industry for protection.



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<a href="#">Delegates</a>					<a href="#">EMC - Economic Matters Committee</a>	<a href="#">EHEA - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee</a>	
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