

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 lchausse@thearcmd.org. Last Updated 3/14/22

| Bill | Crossfiled Bill | Title | Sponsor | Status | Position | Description | Notes |
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| Budget Bills | | | | | | | |
| HB0300 | SB0290 | Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023) | House Speaker at Request of Administration | In House First Reading APP; DDA Budget Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM in APP Health and Social Services Subcommittee | | Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc. | We have several questions about what is contained in the budget. Bernie Simons presented the DDA budget to The Arc Maryland's GAC Committee and partners. We hope to have questions answered this week (1/24-1/28) |
| SB0290 | HB0300 | Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023) | Senate President at Request of Administration | In Senate First Reading B&T; DDA Budget Hearing 3/3 AT 1 PM in B&T Health and Human Services Subcommittee | | Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc. | We have several questions about what is contained in the budget. Bernie Simons presented the DDA budget to The Arc Maryland's GAC Committee and partners. We hope to have questions answered this week (1/24-1/28) |
| Bill Positions by Topic | | | | | | | |
| Community Living & Working | | | | | | | |
| SB0010 | | Workers' Compensation - COVID-19 Occupational Disease Presumption | Senator Jackson | In Senate Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM FIN | Oppose | Establishing that first responders, public safety employees, and health care workers are presumed to have an occupational disease that is compensable under workers' compensation law after a positive test or diagnosis for COVID-19; and applying the Act retroactively. | It is not possible to pinpoint a causal link between exposure to and contraction from a particular person.- viral particles are so small they are able to travel, making this variant present with a high transmission rate. Worker's comp already has a process they use to determine if Covid was likely to have happened on the job. |
| SB0023 | HB0141 | Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses | Senator Carter | In Senate Hearing 1/26 at 1 PM FIN | Support | Requiring that equity be considered when State transportation plans, reports, and goals are developed; altering the membership of the advisory committee on State transportation goals; establishing the Commission on Transportation Equity to assist in developing policies and performance measures to ensure the State transportation system is equitable; requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct transit equity analyses and consult with certain communities before announcing or proposing service changes; etc. | BEGINNING WITH THE 2023 ATTAINMENT REPORT ON 'TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVISING THE DEPARTMENT ON STATE TRANSPORTATION GOALS, BENCHMARKS, AND INDICATORS SHALL CONSULT WITH THE COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION EQUITY TO RECOMMEND MEASURABLE TRANSPORTATION INDICATORS THAT CAN BE EVALUATED FOR: 1. RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES; AND 2. IMPACTS ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES |
| HB0141 | SB0023 | Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses | Delegate Ruth | In House Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM E&T | Support | See above | See above |
| SB0028 | HB0080 | Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications | Senator Kelley et al. | Passed in Senate with Amendments (45-0); In House First Reading HGO | Support | Altering the required contents of the home- and community-based services waiver submitted by the Maryland Department of Health to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and requiring the Department to send an application to a certain number of individuals each month, if the Department maintains a waiting list or registry for the waiver. | changes Community Options Waiver Caps, and requires the Department to contact a certain number of people on the wait list to determine eligibility for needed services. |
| HB0080 | SB0028 | Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications | Delegate Cullison | In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO | Support | See above | See above |
| SB0066 | | Labor and Employment - Hiring - Education Requirements (Give Me A Chance - Job Opportunities Act of 2022) | Senator Patterson | In Senate Unfavorable Report FIN | Support or LOI | Prohibiting an employer from developing or implementing an application or hiring process that uses an applicant's or employee's lack of achievement of a certain level of education in employment decisions unless a minimum educational qualification is required to obtain an occupational license; authorizing an employer to inquire as to an applicant's academic achievement after an initial offer of employment, but may not rescind the offer based on the applicant's response; providing certain penalties under certain circumstances; etc | If passed, employers may not use the lack of a high school diploma to disqualify an otherwise qualified candidate for employment. |
| SB0093 | | Tax Credits - Employment of Individuals With Disabilities | Senator Kramer | Passed in Senate (45-0); In House Hearing 3/23 at 1 PM W&M | Support with Coalition Testimony | Altering the amount of a credit against certain State taxes for certain wages paid and certain child care or transportation expenses incurred by certain business entities with respect to qualified employees with disabilities. | The bill would increase the amount of tax credits employers can claim for providing assistance to employees with disabilities and providing childcare assistance. |
| HB0008 | SB0275 | Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022) | Delegate Valderrama | In House Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM EMC | Support with Amendments | Establishing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to provide certain benefits to individuals who take leave from employment for certain purposes; establishing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring, beginning January 1, 2023, certain employees, employers, and self-employed individuals to contribute to the Fund in a certain manner; etc. | While paid family leave is a concept supported by The Arc, the bill language would create a host of new requirements and hardships for providers and employees as it requires mandatory participation, financial and other, and does not contain any definition changes The Arc has asked for in the past. |
| SB0275 | HB0008 | Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022) | Senators Hayes & Benson | In Senate Hearing 2/10 at 1 PM FIN | Support with Amendments | See above | See above |
| HB0135 | | Environment – Single–Use Plastics – Restrictions | Delegate Love | In House Unfavorable Report EMC | Support | Prohibiting, beginning January 1, 2023, a food service business from providing certain single-use food or beverage products to a customer ordering carryout or delivery from or dining inside the food service business unless the customer requests or accepts an offer for the single-use products; requiring a food service business to maintain a limited stock of single-use plastic straws for certain customers; and authorizing a food service business to submit a request to a governmental entity for a waiver of up to 3 months. | Bill contains provisions to ensure that businesses keep a limited supply of straws on hand for people who need them as an accommodation. We would like to see the bill strengthened however with training/posting requirements in the law to ensure food service places know they must keep a stock of straws on hand for accommodations. |
| HB0173 | | State Board of Social Work Examiners - Temporary License to Practice Social Work | Delegate Bagnall | In House Hearing 2/3 at 2:30 PM HGO | LOI or Support with Amendment | Authorizing the State Board of Social Work Examiners to issue a temporary license to practice social work if a required examination is unavailable to the applicant for a period of at least 7 days and the applicant has met the appropriate education and experience requirements; and providing that a temporary license authorizes the holder to practice social work only under the supervision of a Board-approved supervisor and is valid until 90 days after the examination becomes readily available to the applicant. | The social work graduates shouldl not be able to provide an evaluation for guardianship cases. |
| SB0235 | | Income Tax - Personal Exemption - Disabled Individuals | Senator Jackson | In Senate Hearing 1/25 at 2:30 PM B&T | Support | Authorizing individuals who have a permanent physical disability, including blindness to deduct \$1,000 as a personal exemption under the Maryland income tax; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021. | People with physical disabilities could benefit in having a \$1000 personal exemption to taxes to be able to offset expense such as transportation and accessibility devices/equipment that can be costly but which aid them to work and live with independence |

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| HB0496 | | Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment | Delegates Wilson, Valderrama & Kelly | In House Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM EMC | Support with Amendments | Establishing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to provide certain benefits to individuals who take leave from employment for certain purposes; establishing the Division of Family and Medical Leave Insurance in the Department to administer the Program; establishing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; applying the Act prospectively, etc. | Does not take care of the primary concerns with definitions and applicability |
| HB0529 | SB0559 | Estates and Trusts - Supported Decision Making | Delegate Pena-Melnyk et al. | In House Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM JUD | Support | Authorizing the use of supported decision making to assist an adult through the provision of certain support for the adult in making, communicating, or effectuating certain decisions and preventing the need for the appointment of certain substitute decision makers for the adult; authorizing an adult to enter into a supported decision-making agreement with one or more supporters under certain circumstances; providing immunity from civil or criminal liability under certain circumstances; etc. | The Supported Decision Making coalition is made up of 27 individuals and organizations all working to protect and advance the rights of people with IDD. This bill would create a Supported Decision Making option in current law- authorizing people to designate supporters to help them gather and evaluate information they need to make their own decisions. Several other states and jurisdictions have already adopted SDM into their statutes. |
| SB0559 | HB0529 | Estates and Trusts - Supported Decision Making | Senator Waldstreicher et al. | Passed in Senate (44-0); In House First Reading JUD | Support | See above | |
| SB0636 | HB1403 | Maryland Department of Health - Waiver Programs - Waitlist Reduction (End the Wait Act) | Senators Zucker, Guzzone & Griffith et al. | In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM B&T | Support | Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a plan to reduce the waitlist for certain waiver programs by 50% beginning in fiscal year 2024. | Clarifying amendments have been drafted to capture increased access for those on the Autism Waiver Registry (technically not a wait list but included in this bill) and provisions requiring the department to examine what existing providers need for capacity to support additional people coming off the waiting list. House bill is expected with Delegate Pena-Melnyk as sponsor |
| HB1403 | SB0636 | Maryland Department of Health - Waiver Programs - Waitlist Reduction (End the Wait Act) | Delegate Pena-Melnyk et al. | In House Hearing 3/15 at 1:30 PM HGO | Support | See above | See above |
| SB0625 | HB0726 | Transportation of Persons With Disabilities - Transportation Network Companies - Employee Requirements | Senator Hettelman | In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM FIN | Support | Exempting certain employees of transportation network companies that provide transit service to persons with disabilities under contract with the Maryland Transit Administration from certain requirements relating to a certain criminal history records check and completion of a certain course; and requiring transportation network companies that provide transit service to persons with disabilities under contract with the Administration to run certain annual background checks on certain employees. | Would not require C.JIS, but would require a regular background check for alternative driving contractors with the Department like UBER or Lyft. Since Transportation has been so woefully insufficient, due to historic issues and the recent driver shortage, this would provide another option, accounting for rider safety, for people who need paratransit or other subsidized transportation to get to medical appts. etc. |
| HB0726 | SB0625 | Transportation of Persons With Disabilities - Transportation Network Companies - Employee Requirements | Delegate Ebersole et al. | In House Unfavorable Report E&T; Withdrawn | Support | See above | |
| HB0878 | | Howard County - Department of Housing and Community Development - Housing Opportunities Trust Fund Ho. Co. 05-22 | Howard County Delegation | In House Hearing 3/1 at 1 PM E&T | Support | Establishing the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund as a nonreverting special fund to be used to promote equitable access to affordable housing for households of limited income in Howard County; and requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development for Howard County to report on the activity of the Fund during the prior fiscal year on or before December 1 each year. | People with IDD need access to affordable, accessible housing and currently the stock is low, as are support mechanisms for housing assistance funds. The trust could help with that. |
| HB0698 | SB0721 | Labor and Employment - State Minimum Wage Rate - Increase | Delegate Turner et al. | In House Hearing 2/22 at 1 PM EMC | Support with Amendments | Increasing the State minimum wage rates in effect for certain periods of time; and repealing the authority of the Board of Public Works to temporarily suspend an increase to the State minimum wage rate. | Increases the min wage to \$15 per hour by July 1, 2022 and does not contain any funding provision for Medicaid providers. |
| SB0721 | HB0698 | Labor and Employment - State Minimum Wage Rate - Increase | Senators Waldstreicher & McCray | In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM FIN | Support with Amendments | See above | See above |
| HB1121 | | Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Registration Plates – Notation for Autism Spectrum | Delegate R. Jones et al | In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM E&T | Oppose | Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that the driver's license, identification card, or registration plate of an applicant who indicates on a certain application that the applicant is on the autism spectrum includes a notation specifying that the applicant is on the autism spectrum; and requiring an application for a driver's license, an identification card, or a vehicle registration to allow an applicant to indicate that the applicant is on the autism spectrum. | Request to R Jones to withdraw this bill as it creates unintended consequences, similar to a bill Senator Zucker submitted and subsequently ammended in 2019. |
| HB0640 | | Labor and Employment - Healthy Working Families Act - Application | Delegate Carey | In House Hearing Canceled EMC | Support with Amendments | Altering the exemption from the application of the Healthy Working Families Act for employees employed in the construction industry; and applying the Act prospectively. | |
| HB0660 | | Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (Student Job Training Reformation Act) | Delegate Guyton et al. | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Support with Amendment DD Coalition Testimony | Establishing the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services to evaluate and make recommendations on improving various aspects of the Division of Rehabilitative Services' programs and services; and requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15, 2022. | Amendments include adding the Maryland Department of Disabilities and including additional tasks for the Commission to evaluate WTC. |
| SB0680 | HB1332 | State and Local Parks – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards | Senator Gallion | In Senate Hearing 3/1 at 1 PM EHEA | Support with Amendments | Requiring the Department of Natural Resources and local governing bodies to construct a communication board in each public playground by October 1, 2027; defining "communication board" as a device that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to enable individuals with limited language skills to express themselves and communicate; and providing for the funding of communication board construction. | It would be wonderful to have communication boards statewide. They should use recognizable/universal symbols for communication. |
| HB1332 | SB0680 | State and Local Parks – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards | Delegate Kipke | In House Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM E&T | Support with Amendments | See above | See above |
| Education & Childcare | | | | | | | |
| SB0116 | | Public Schools - Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts - Development of Content Standards and Implementation | Senator Ellis | In Senate Hearing 2/3 at 1 PM EHEA | Support | Requiring the State Board of Education, by December 1, 2022, to develop content standards for inclusive and diverse English language arts to be included in the State Standards and Frameworks for English Language Arts; requiring each county board of education to develop and implement age-appropriate 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 2023-2024 school year. | Requires the Board of Education to develop content standards for language arts curriculum to highlight and promote diversity to include neurodiversity and inclusion. |

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| HB0023 | | School Discipline - Data Collection and School Resource Officers | Delegate Washington | In House Hearing 1/20 at 1 PM W&M | Support | Requiring the State Department of Education to disaggregate certain discipline-related data in an electronic spreadsheet format for the Department's website, make the data available to the public, and report certain discipline-related information each year; requiring the Department to lower a risk ratio used to identify a school's disproportional disciplinary practices and report disproportionality data for high-suspending schools; and prohibiting a school resource officer from unilaterally enforcing student discipline. | Requires the MSDE to make public all discipline-related data as a data-download disaggregated information by grade level, race, ethnicity, and disability status including a 504 Plan or IEP on or before August 1, 2023 and annually thereafter. MSDE should note disproportionality and lower the risk ratio to under or at the Federal IDEA compliance standards. The bill also notes that a School Resource Officer (SRO) cannot unilaterally enforce discipline-related school policies, rules, regulations, or procedures. Why this is important: Data shows disproportionate application of discipline on black and brown students and students with disabilities but the data is not helpful for holding school systems accountable to change as it is rolled up onto lump totals. We need the data disaggregated so we can identify and address the problems where they are. The bill also addresses a concern with the overreach of the SROs becoming involved in incidents, potentially leading to escalations, and police involvement. These functions should be handled by supportive staff in the school, trained in trauma informed care, and in the communication, behavioral, and sensory needs of the student. |
| HB0056 | | Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment | Delegate Bagnall | In House Hearing 1/20 at 1 PM W&M | Support with Friendly Amendment | Establishing the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment; and requiring, on or before July 1, 2023 and December 1, 2023, the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly. | To include someone who is viewing policy through the lens of IDD |
| HB0089 | SB0480 | Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established | Delegate Queen | In House Favorable with Amendments Report W&M | Support with Amendments | Establishing the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and the Child Care Expansion Grant Program in the State Department of Education; and establishing that the purpose of the Program is to provide financial support to licensed child care providers in the State that are in danger of closing in the next 12 months due to financial hardship. | Add that fund can be used for accommodations needed to support children with disabilities. |
| SB0480 | HB0089 | Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established | Senators Hester, King & West | In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM B&T | Support with Amendments | See above | See above |
| HB0136 | SB0299 | Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act) | Delegates Kerr & Johnson | Passed In House with Amendments (135-0); In Senate First Reading EHEA | Support | Requiring a county board of education and authorizing a nonpublic school, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, to require at least two school personnel at the school to be trained in certain seizure recognition and response methods; requiring a public school, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, to provide training every 2 years to school personnel with direct contact and supervision of students on certain seizure recognition and response methods; providing immunity from civil liability under certain circumstances; etc. | Background: Requires schools to develop Seizure Action Plans for students with Seizure disorders and also requires schools to identify and train at least two school personnel on the identification, response, and treatment of seizures. Why this is needed: There are approximately 7,900 children living with epilepsy in Maryland. This amounts to a ratio of roughly 913 students for every 1 school nurse. Education, information, and training on seizure recognition would ensure school personnel are prepared and can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to a student experiencing a seizure, thus creating a safer environment for every student in Maryland's public schools. Parents, as critical partners in education, would be actively involved in collaboration with school personnel to create a seizure action plan for their student with a seizure condition. 12 states have already passed seizure safe legislation as of October 2021 including our neighbor states Virginia and New Jersey. |
| SB0299 | HB0136 | Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act) | Senators Young, Feldman & Washington | Passed in Senate (44-0); In House Hearing 3/24 at 1 PM W&M | Support | See above | See above |
| HB0226 | SB0577 | Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classroom Video Recording Pilot Program | Delegates Guyton & Luedtke | Passed in House (128-4); | Support | Requiring county boards of education to install a video recording device in 10 self-contained special education classrooms in the state, report data on the costs of installation and maintenance, and report data on the effectiveness of the devices both as a deterrent and as a tool to investigate abuse and neglect claims. | This article provides a lot of good information about why cameras in self contained special education classrooms are needed. https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/continuing-coverage/seclusion-and-restraint-in-fcps/state-bill-would-require-cameras-in-special-education-classrooms/article_6de7d573-4cbd-5207-8114-465cc611ab26.html |
| SB0577 | HB0226 | Public Schools – Self–Contained Special Education Classroom – Use of Video Recording Devices | Senator Klausmeier et al. | In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM EHEA | Support | Requiring each county board of education, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, to install a video recording device in each self-contained special education classroom; providing for the installation, operation, notification, and use of a video recording device and the viewing, use, and confidentiality of system recordings; requiring the school administration to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency on receipt of a complaint of alleged neglect or abuse of a student under certain circumstances; etc. | See above |
| HB0352 | SB0888 | Education - American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board - Academic Standards and Model Policy | Delegate Qi et al. | In House Hearing Canceled W&M | Support | Establishing the American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board; requiring that at least 80% of the Board's members reflect the geographic diversity of the State and have a background in advocacy for certain ethnic and social groups; requiring the Advisory Board to review academic standards for American studies and develop a model policy on ethnic and social equity in public schools; requiring each county board of education to implement a curriculum for American studies before the 2025-2026 school year; etc. | This bill would establish a board to advise curriculum on American Studies to ensure the histories of influential contributors to American History are equitably included. This would include the contributions of people with disabilities throughout history who have shaped our history and nation today. |
| SB0888 | HB0352 | Education - American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board - Academic Standards and Model Policy | Senator Lee | In Senate Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM EHEA | Support | See above | See above |
| HB0737 | | Alternative Education Options - Right to Learn and Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Programs (Right to Learn Act of 2022) | Delegate Ghrist et al. | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Oppose with EAC | Requiring, on or before January 1 each year, and based on certain star ratings, each county board of education to provide the parents or legal guardians of students who attend a failing school notice that the school is failing and a list of alternative school options; establishing the Right to Learn Program to provide students who attend a failing school and choose to pursue an alternative education option with certain scholarships; establishing the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program; etc. | Concern with diversion of funds away from public school and BOOST program overall. Private schools that do not receive Federal Ed Funding do not have to comply with IDEA and often students give up their rights to accommodations needed for proper education access. Compliance with IDEA should be a requirement for any organization who receives BOOST funding. |
| SB0119 | HB0084 | Education – Crimes on School Grounds – Application | Senator Washington | Passed in Senate (30-16); In House Hearing 3/24 at 1 PM W&M | Support with CRSD | Specifying that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing disruptive and threatening behavior on the grounds of, in the classes of, or in the home of an employee of an institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend, students on exclusionary discipline who commit offenses at the institution they attend, or students who commit offenses while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program. | Clarifies the intention of the original law and prohibits overapplication |
| HB0084 | SB0119 | Education – Crimes on School Grounds – Application | Delegate Ruth et al. | Passed in House (94-42); In Senate First Reading EHEA | Support with CRSD | See above | See above |

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| SB0583 | | Maryland Center for School Safety – Public Schools – Reporting of Classroom Disruptions | Senator Bailey | In Senate Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM EHEA | Oppose | Requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to establish a website for anonymous reports of public school classroom disruptions; requiring the Center to establish an office that reviews and refers classroom disruption reports to the appropriate county superintendent of schools and the county board of education; requiring the county superintendent and the county board jointly to respond within 45 days after receiving the report, etc. | No definition of “Classroom Disruption” and not sure how this would not be a waste of funding that could be used for supportive services in school. |
| SB0617 | HB0547 | Local School Systems - Equivalent Access Standards - Digital Tools (Nonvisual Access Accountability Act for K-12 Education) | Senator Zucker et al. | Passed in Senate (44-0); In House Hearing 3/24 at 1 PM W&M | Support | Requiring a local school system to provide equivalent access to digital tools for students with disabilities, including the development, purchase, and provision of certain digital tools; requiring a local school system to establish a process to evaluate a digital tool under consideration for purchase for nonvisual access by a certain employee of the school system; requiring a vendor who provided a digital tool that fails to meet equivalent access standards to modify the digital tool at the vendor's expense; etc. | Would strengthen equitable access to technology for students with visual impairment and blindness. |
| HB0547 | SB0617 | Local School Systems - Equivalent Access Standards - Digital Tools (Nonvisual Access Accountability Act for K-12 Education) | Delegate Guyton et al. | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Support | See above | See above |
| SB0705 | HB1255 | Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, and Training | Senators Zucker, Hester & Hough | In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM EHEA | Support | Prohibiting a public agency from using seclusion as a behavioral health intervention for a student; prohibiting a public agency from using physical restraint and a nonpublic school from using physical restraint or seclusion as a behavioral health intervention for a student, except under certain circumstances; requiring the State Department of Education to develop an accountability system to measure compliance with regulations adopted on the use of physical restraint and seclusion; etc. | Support with Coalition Partners. There is also Federal legislation under consideration right now: The Keeping All Students Safe Act which would eliminate seclusion and curtail restraint in schools. Seclusion and Restraint data for Maryland Schools show the practice is disproportionately used on black and brown students and students with disabilities. |
| HB1255 | SB0705 | Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, and Training | Delegate Ebersole et al. | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM W&M | Support | See above | See above. |
| SB0666 | HB0850 | Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education – Discrimination | Senators McCray & Waldstreicher | In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM JPR | Support | Prohibiting county boards of education and certain schools and prekindergarten programs from taking certain discriminatory actions because of a person's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; requiring each county board and certain schools and prekindergarten programs to print a certain statement in their student handbook; providing for the filing of a complaint under the Act with the State Superintendent of Schools; etc. | Self-explanatory |
| HB0850 | SB0666 | Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education – Discrimination | Delegates Wilkins and Charles | In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM W&M | Support | See above | see above |
| HB0728 | SB0371 | Carroll County – Prospective Employees and Volunteers – Criminal History Records Check | Carroll County Delegation | In House Hearing 3/11 at 1 PM E&T | Letter of Information | Repealing provisions relating to obtaining a criminal history records check in Carroll County; and authorizing the Department of Human Resources in Carroll County to request, along with the submission of two complete sets of an employee's or volunteers fingerprints and certain fees, from the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services a State and national criminal history records check for a prospective county employee or volunteer. | Would present the unintended consequences of keeping volunteer parents, guest speakers, and assemblies out of the schools, including the <i>Together We're Better</i> inclusive education campaign. We understand the importance of long-term volunteers having a deeper background, but believe this bill may overreach. |
| SB0371 | HB0728 | Carroll County – Prospective Employees and Volunteers – Criminal History Records Check | Carroll County Senators | Passed in Senate with Amendments (45-0); In House First Reading E&T | Letter of Information | See above | See above |
| SB0806 | HB1100 | Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses | Senator King | In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM B&T | Support | Establishing funding for, the award of, and the distribution of bonuses for child care providers and employees; and requiring, in fiscal year 2024, the Governor to include in the annual budget an appropriation of \$16,000,000 to the State Department of Education to carry out the Act. | Would help The Arc providers who operate childcare centers that have been impacted by the pandemic. |
| HB1100 | SB0806 | Child Care Providers and Employees - Bonuses | Delegates Queen & Solomon | In House Favorable with Amendments Report W&M | Support | See above | See above |
| HB0933 | | Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act) | Delegate Queen et al. by request of Study Group on Economic Stability | In House Hearing 3/4 at 12 PM W&M | Support | Specifying certain eligibility requirements the State Department of Education shall use, and certain factors the Department shall consider, when determining a child's initial eligibility for the Child Care Scholarship Program; providing that a child who is determined eligible for the Program shall remain eligible for the following 12 months, regardless of certain changes in circumstances; establishing certain Program copayment requirements for certain families; etc. | Childcare has been desimated by the Pandemic and there is a package of pro-childcare assistance bills this session The Arc Maryland supports. |
| HB0989 | | Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act) | Delegate Walker et al. | In House Hearing 2/25 at 12 PM | Support with EAC | Requiring each public school to have a program of physical education for prekindergarten students; adding a representative to the Advisory Council on Health and Physical Education; establishing as a State goal that each student in a public elementary school be provided 150 minutes of developmentally appropriate physical activity each week; requiring the State Department of Education to collect data on the physical activity of elementary school students and publish the information on its website; etc. | |
| HB1145 | | Education - Student Behavior - Parent Notice and Required Counseling (Parent Accountability Act) | Deelgate Long et al. | In House Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM W&M | Oppose with EAC | 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 their child after receiving notice of violent and disruptive behavior; and requiring a public school principal to provide written notice to the parent or guardian of a student who engages in two or more number of incidents of violent and disruptive behavior in a public school during the school year. | |
| SB0919 | HB0993 | Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund - Established | Senator King | In Senate Hearing 3/15 at 1 PM B&T | Support | Establishing the Child Care Support Revolving Loan Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide no-interest loans for capital expenses related to a child care facility to child care providers who participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Fund; and requiring the Department of Commerce to publicize the availability of loans from the Fund. | Would help The Arc providers who operate childcare centers that have been impacted by the pandemic. |
| HB0993 | SB0919 | Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund - Established | Delegates Ebersole & Solomon | In House Favorable with Amendments Report W&M | Support | See above | see above |

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| Bill | Crossfiled Bill | Title | Sponsor | Status | Position | Description | Notes |
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| SB0920 | HB0995 | Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations | Senator King | In Senate Hearing 3/15 at 1 PM EHEA | Support | Requiring the State Department of Education to establish a certain process for granting presumptive eligibility for a subsidy under the Child Care Scholarship Program; requiring the Department to award a certain subsidy to an individual who submits certain proof; prohibiting the Department from requiring an individual to take certain actions to be eligible for a certain subsidy; requiring the Department to pay a certain child care provider within 10 days of receipt of an invoice from a child care provider; etc. | Would help The Arc providers who operate childcare centers that have been impacted by the pandemic. |
| HB0995 | SB0920 | Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Alterations | Delegate Solomon | In House Favorable with Amendments Report W&M | Support | See above | see above |
| SB0973 | | Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Firearms Required | Senator Jennings | In Senate First Reading SRU | Oppose | Requiring a Baltimore City school police officer and a school resource officer to carry a firearm while present on the premises of the school to which the officer is assigned. | |
| HB0664 | | Child Care Programs – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Information and Assistance | Delegate Guyton et al. | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Support | Requiring a child care program to provide to parents or guardians of a child under the age of 3 years information about the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program and contact information for the local lead agency responsible for administering the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program; and requiring a child care program to assist a parent or guardian, at their request, with scheduling a time and location for the administering agency of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program to provide a certain screening. | |
| Healthcare | | | | | | | |
| SB0150 | HB0006 | Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults | Senators Augustine & Guzzone | In Senate Hearing 1/25 at 1 PM FIN | Support | Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, beginning January 1, 2023, and subject to certain limitations, to provide comprehensive dental care for adults whose annual household income is at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level; and repealing certain provisions of law requiring the implementation of a pilot program to provide limited dental coverage to adult recipients under the Program. | Expands dental coverage for individuals who have Medical Assistance (previously a pilot). |
| HB0006 | SB0150 | Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults | Delegate Cullison | In House Hearing 2/9 at 1:30 PM HGO | Support | See above | See above |
| SB0241 | | Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund | Senator Augustine | In Senate Favorable with Amendments Report FIN | Support | Establishing the 9-8-8 Trust Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide reimbursement for costs associated with designating and maintaining 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to designate 9-8-8 as the primary phone number for the State's behavioral health crisis hotline; requiring the Department by December 1 each year to report on the expenditure of funds and additional services provided by the funding; etc. | |
| SB0623 | | Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Essential Health Care Workers | Senator Corterman et al. | In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM B&T | Support with Amendment | Allowing, for taxable years 2021 and 2022, a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax in the amount of \$2,000 for essential health care workers; and defining "essential health care worker" as a licensed physician, a licensed practical nurse, a registered nurse, or an emergency medical services provider who performed a duty or work responsibility during a state of emergency declared by the Governor and that could not performed remotely. | Amendment needed to include Direct Support Professionals with CMT Licenses to tax benefit program. |
| SB0440 | HB0625 | Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland - Establishment | Senator Beidle | Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House First Reading HGO | Support | Establishing the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland to examine certain areas related to health care workforce shortages in the State, including the extent of the workforce shortage, short-term solutions to the workforce shortage, future health care workforce needs, and the relationship between the Maryland Department of Health and the health occupations boards; and requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly by December 31 each year. | Possible Amendment to include representatives from the disability community on the commission and to include DD services. |
| HB0625 | SB0440 | Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland - Establishment | Delegate Kelly | In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM HGO | Support with Coalition Testimony | See above | |
| HB1130 | | Health Occupations - Prohibition on Expiration of Licenses, Certificates, Permits, and Registrations | Delegate Pendergrass | In House Hearing 3/3 at 1:30 PM HGO | Support/Letter of Information | Prohibiting the licenses, certificates, permits, and registrations issued before December 4, 2021, by the health occupations boards in accordance with certain provisions of law from expiring and requiring that they remain effective until the Department of Information Technology restores the systems and servers of the applicable health occupations boards that were impacted by the cybersecurity attack on the Maryland Department of Health; etc. | |
| SB0518 | HB0821 | Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program | Senator Augustine | In Senate Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM FIN | Support | Establishing the Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program in the Maryland Department of Labor for the purpose of providing grants to eligible employers for training programs attended by health care workers. | Evaluating for possible Coalition Testimony. Seems to encompass DSPs due to HGA reference. Still reviewing. |
| HB0821 | SB0518 | Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program | Delegates Turner & Landis | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1:30 PM HGO | Support | See above | See above |
| HB1017 | HB0807 | Frederick County – Mental Health Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program | Delegate K.Young et al. | In House Hearing 3/9 at 1:30 PM HGO | Oppose | Establishing the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program in Frederick County; defining "assisted outpatient treatment" as a specific regimen of outpatient treatment for a mental health disorder to which an individual is ordered by the court to adhere. | |
| HB0807 | HB1017 | Frederick County – Mental Health Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program | Senator Hough | In Senate Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM FIN | Oppose | See above | |
| HB1160 | | Mental Health Law - Reform of Laws and Delivery of Service | Delegates Kipke & Henson | In House Hearing 3/9 at 1:30 PM HGO | Oppose | Defining "danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others" for purposes of the involuntary admission of individuals with mental disorders to a facility or Veterans' Administration hospital and the emergency evaluation of individuals with mental disorders; and requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to provide information regarding the definition to certain schools that conduct police entrance-level and in-service training courses. | |
| Justice & Civil Rights | | | | | | | |

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| HB0045 | | Crimes - Mitigation and Defense - Religious Beliefs, Disability, or Homelessness | Delegate Cardin | In House Hearing 1/25 at 1 PM JUD | Oppose/Monitor for any movement | Establishing that a certain discovery or perception of, or belief about, another person's religious beliefs, disability, or homelessness does not constitute certain provocation to mitigate a killing from the crime of murder to manslaughter and is not a defense to the crime of assault in any degree. | Would change the law so a person's disability could not be factored into the defense of a person accused of a heinous crime. |
| HB0078 | | Discrimination in Employment - Reasonable Accommodations for Applicants With Disabilities | Delegates Rogers & Charkoudian | Passed In House with Amendments (118-12); In Senate First Reading JPR | Support | Prohibiting an employer from failing or refusing to make a certain accommodation for a known disability of an otherwise qualified applicant for employment; and establishing that an employer is not required to accommodate an applicant for employment's disability under certain circumstances. | Note that the bill is significantly watered down, but in conversations with the delegates and understand they are trying to create a law that can be built upon to strengthen protections. |
| HB0099 | | Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Signature Requirements and Verification | Delegate Long | In House Hearing 1/25 at 1 PM W&M | 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. | creates barriers to exercise the right to vote for people with disabilities |
| HB0113 | | Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity | Delegate Long | In House Hearing 1/25 at 1 PM W&M | Oppose | Requiring individuals seeking to vote in person at a polling place or early voting center to prove the individual's identity by presenting certain identification to an election judge; and providing that individuals who do not prove the individual's identity as required must be issued and may cast a provisional ballot. | creates barriers to exercise the right to vote for people with disabilities |
| HB0161 | | Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence | Delegate Shetty | Passed In House (130-0); In Senate First Reading JPR | Support with Coalition Testimony | Altering the definition of "undue influence" for purposes of provisions of law prohibiting the exploitation of certain vulnerable adults or individuals at least 68 years old that results in inequity; and requiring a court, in determining whether a transfer of property was induced by undue influence, to consider certain factors. | Difficult to measure "excessive persuasion." |
| HB0177 | | 9–1–1 Registry Program – Autism and Other Special Needs – Established | Delegates Atterbeary & Wilson | In House Unfavorable Report HGO | Recommended Summer Work | Establishing the 9-1-1 Registry Program to authorize self-advocates, parents, or guardians of individuals with autism or other special needs to register with the 9-1-1 system in order to alert first responders of certain behaviors individuals with autism or other special needs may exhibit during encounters with first responders; and requiring each public safety answering point to establish certain procedures, ensure the details of Program are publicly available, and maintain accurate information on registered individuals. | We understand this legislation will be withdrawn to allow additional time for advocates and stakeholders to work through it. |
| HB0212 | | Election Law - Signature Verification of Absentee Ballots and Absentee Ballot Applications and Ballot Canvassing | Delegate Parrott | Withdrawn by Sponsor | Oppose | Establishing requirements and procedures for the verification of signatures on absentee ballot applications and requests and absentee ballots; and altering the reasons for which local boards of elections are required to reject absentee and provisional ballots during the canvass. | Creates barriers to exercise the right to vote for people with disabilities. |
| HB0297 | SB0003 | Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care - Safety Plans | Delegate Rosenberg | In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments | LOI with MACS | Requiring that certain regulations adopted by the Department of Juvenile Services governing juvenile care facilities and juvenile detention facilities include a requirement for the establishment, implementation, and revision of safety plans related to the persons in the care of the facility; requiring residential centers and group homes to establish, implement, and revise a certain safety plan; requiring regulations adopted by the Behavioral Health Administration to include a revision for safety plans every 5 years; etc. | DDA providers are already required to develop emergency plans which include all of the requirements that these new safety plans would require. To avoid administrative burden and duplication, we will likely request a friendly amendment. |
| SB0003 | HB0297 | Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care - Safety Plans | Senator Carter | Passed in Senate (47-0); In House First Reading HGO | LOI with MACS | See above | See above |
| HB0269 | SB0053 | Juvenile Law - Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act | Delegate Bartlett et al. | In House Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM JUD | Support | This bill would ensure that a child's parents, guardian, or custodian is reasonably notified when that child is taken into custody, interrogated, or charged with a criminal violation. School data currently shows that black and brown students and students with disabilities have disproportionate interactions with police resulting from school incidents. This bill would help protect their rights. | Testimony provided |
| SB0053 | HB0269 | Juvenile Law - Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act | Senator Carter | In Senate Hearing 1/27 at 2 PM JPR | Support | See above | see above |
| SB0532 | | Election Law – Polling Places – Proof of Identity | Senator Ready et al. | In Senate Hearing 2/23 at 1 PM EHEA | Oppose | Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present certain proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification. | Creates barriers to exercise the right to vote for people with disabilities. |
| HB0629 | | Election Law - Polling Places and Early Voting Centers - Electronic Devices | Delegate Palakovich Carr | In House Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM W&M | Support | Authorizing individuals who are authorized to access a voting room to use electronic devices at polling places and early voting centers, subject to certain exceptions; authorizing voters to use an electronic device to photograph or record video of the voter or the voter's ballot at a voting booth; authorizing certain election officials, law enforcement officers, fire or rescue personnel, medical technicians, and other emergency services personnel to use an electronic device at a polling center in the performance of official duties; etc. | |
| HB0702 | | Election Judges - Training and Signs - Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance | Delegate Hill | In House Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM W&M | Support | Requiring that training materials used by the program of instruction for election judges include oral and written instruction in the various methods an election judge may use to assist or accommodate elderly and disabled voters in voting; and establishing requirements for the development and placement of a sign that states the various methods election judges may use to assist or accommodate elderly and disabled voters in voting. | Z |
| SB0352 | HB0329 | Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures | Senator Lam | In Senate Hearing Canceled EHEA | Support | Altering the procedures for the canvassing of absentee and provisional ballots; requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations requiring a local board to notify a voter of a problem with a ballot envelope and provide the voter an opportunity to correct the problem in order to have the ballot counted; and requiring the regulations to allow a voter to supply a certain signature and to choose among multiple methods of communicating with the local board to correct a problem on a ballot envelope. | |
| HB0329 | SB0352 | Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures | Delegate Moon | In House First Reading W&M | Support | See above | |

Monitored Bills by Topic

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| Community Living & Working | | | | | | | |
| SB0169 | | State Autism Strategy – Revisions | FIN Chair, by Request of Gov's Office of Community Initiatives | Passed in Senate (45-0); In House First Reading APP | Monitoring | Altering the date by which the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy must submit a certain annual report and repealing the requirement that the report be submitted to the Secretary of Disabilities; altering the membership of the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Advisory Stakeholder Group and establishing term requirements for the chair; and requiring the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to provide staff to the Advisory Stakeholder Group. | |
| HB0662 | | Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs, Interagency Disabilities Board, and the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy - Membership, Staffing, and Appointment | Delegate Guyton | In House Hearing 2/22 at 1 PM APP | Evaluating | Altering the membership and staffing of the Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs; requiring the Governor to appoint the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy; and adding the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy to the Interagency Disabilities Board. | |
| HB0774 | | Human Services – Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth – Establishment | Delegate Acevero | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM APP | Monitoring | Establishing the Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth Program in the Department of Human Services to provide for the economic security of individuals aging out of the out-of-home placement program; providing that payments made under the Program may not be considered income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility for certain benefits; and requiring the Department to report annually on the Program to the General Assembly. | |
| SB0744 | | Housing and Community Development – Affordable Housing – Listing and Disposal of Excess Real Property | Senator Hettelman | In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM EHEA | Evaluating | Not yet available | |
| SB0838 | HB1019 | Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding | Senator Young | In Senate Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM B&T | Evaluating | Requiring the Secretary of Transportation to identify separately within the Department of Transportation's annual budget at least \$4,305,908 of funding in fiscal year 2024 and a certain amount of funding in all subsequent fiscal years to be used for county elderly and handicapped transportation service. | Intention is positive for improving transportation for people with disabilities. The bill language/terms are outdated and we are unsure if the proposed solution is going to address the issues. |
| HB1019 | SB0838 | Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding | Delegates K. Young & Henson | In House Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM APP | Evaluating | See above | See above |
| SB0868 | HB1020 | Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act of 2022) | Senator Lee | In Senate Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM FIN | Evaluating for Support, Support with Amendments, or Letter of Information | Requiring the Developmental Disabilities Administration to establish and provide training materials to coordinators of community services on self-directed services; requiring coordinators of community services to educate a certain recipient on self-directed services at certain times; providing for the services and manner of delivering services that the Administration provides to a recipient who receives self-directed services; requiring that home- and community-based services waiver recipients receive support broker services; etc. | Sine of the definitions may be overly prescriptive and have unintended consequences. |
| HB1020 | SB0868 | Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services (Self-Direction Act of 2022) | Delegates K. Young & Proctor | In House Hearing 3/9 at 1: 30 PM HGO | Evaluating for Support, Support with Amendments, or Letter of Information | See above | See above |
| Education & Childcare | | | | | | | |
| HB0146 | | Education – Reportable Offenses and Student Discipline – Alterations | Delegates Moon & Atterbeary | In House Hearing 2/3 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring | Altering the definition of "reportable offense" to involve only offenses that occurred off school premises, that did not occur at events sponsored by the school, and that involved certain crimes of violence; repealing a requirement that a law enforcement agency notify certain individuals if a student was arrested for a reportable offense; authorizing the State's Attorney to notify certain individuals about a reportable offense if a student is adjudicated delinquent or convicted of the offense; etc. | |
| HB0019 | | Education - School Construction - Pedestrian Safety Plans (Safe Walk to School Act) | Delegate Solomon | Passed in House with Amendments (114-20); In Senate First Reading EHEA | Monitoring | Requiring certain county boards of education seeking State funds for the construction of a new school, or the renovation of or an addition to an existing school that would increase the capacity by more than 100 students, to submit a pedestrian safety plan to the Interagency Commission on School Construction; and requiring the Interagency Commission to review the pedestrian safety plans in consultation with the State Highway Administration. | The plans must ensure that walkways be wide enough for walkers or bikers which typically deploys the right standards. |
| HB0200 | | Education - Public Middle and High Schools - Financial Literacy Curriculum and Graduation Requirement | Delegate Amprey | In House Hearing 1/27 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring | Requiring the State Department of Education to update the Maryland State Curriculum for Personal Financial Literacy Education and corresponding financial literacy standards to include content related to managing loans and taxes; requiring the State Board of Education to establish a financial literacy education week; requiring, beginning in the 2023-2023 school year, each county board to offer a certain financial literacy curriculum; requiring each county board to provide a certificate of completion for students completing the course; etc. | We have been advised that were this to become a requirement. Students with disabilities would be supported via IEP or 504 to have accommodations to meet the graduation requirement. Still some are concerned that this may present a barrier to obtaining a diploma. |
| SB0362 | | Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Schools - Revisions | Senator Pinsky et al. | In Senate Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM EHEA | Monitoring | Altering the requirements for virtual schools established by the State Department of Education or a county board of education by requiring a teacher education program to include training in the skills and techniques for teaching effectively in a virtual learning environment; authorizing a county board to establish one virtual school but may not include classes for prekindergarten or kindergarten students; prohibiting more than 10% of the students from a single public school to enroll in a virtual school in the county; etc. | When students has the opportunity to attend school via a virtual school in 2021, some students with disabilities were rejected even though they/their families felt they would be more successful continuing school in a virtual environment. We may introduce a friendly amendment to page 3 line 30 to reach that the representation of the virtual school should include neurodiverse students. |
| HB0613 | | Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase | Delegate Griffith et al. | In House Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM APP | Evaluating | Increasing from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 certain annual appropriations for certain school safety expenditures beginning in fiscal year 2024. | |
| HB0792 | | Workgroup to Establish a Career Credential Jump Start Pilot Program | Delegate Lisanti | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring | Requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to convene a workgroup to establish a Career Credential Jump Start Pilot Program; and requiring the Program to consider methods to implement career readiness goals with existing funding, and develop procedures to identify students who may benefit from dually enrolling in a noncredit career credential program. | |

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| SB0422 | HB0750 | Education – Jobs That Require Driving – Requirements (Drivers Education for Good Jobs Act of 2022) | Senator Rosapepe et al. | In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM EHEA | Monitoring | Would bring back drivers education as a part of school. Currently students in Maryland have to pay for drivers ed and this can prevent a lot of them from being able to obtain their driver's licence. This could be helpful for people with disabilities to learn to drive, as well as potential DSPs as having a driver's license is often required as a part of the job. | |
| HB0750 | SB0422 | Education – Jobs That Require Driving – Requirements (Drivers Education for Good Jobs Act of 2022) | Delegate D. Jones | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring | See above | |
| HB0766 | | Children – Residential Treatment Centers – Education Funding | Delegate Kaiser | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Evaluating | Authorizing certain core service agencies, local behavioral health authorities, and local additions authorities to approve certain funding for certain youths' educational costs incurred during admission to residential treatment centers under certain circumstances. | |
| HB1301 | SB0706 | Nonpublic Educational Programs - Children With Disabilities - Costs of Teacher Salaries | Delegates Korman & Henson | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring | Requiring the State and certain counties to pay for costs of salaries for teachers at nonpublic educational programs in a certain amount and proportion. | |
| SB0706 | HB1301 | Nonpublic Educational Programs - Children With Disabilities - Costs of Teacher Salaries | Senators Zucker & Elfeth | In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM B&T | Monitoring | Requiring the State and certain counties to pay for costs of salaries for teachers at nonpublic educational programs in a certain amount and proportion. | |
| HB0916 | | Higher Education - Programs for Behavioral Health Professionals in Primary and Secondary Schools - Requirements and Grant Program | Delegate Reznik | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM APP | Monitoring for Possible Support | Requiring public institutions of higher education with behavioral health programs to offer courses in a manner that maximizes the number and types of students who may participate and coordinate with other public institutions of higher education; and establishing the Behavioral Health Professionals in Schools Quality and Diversity Grant Program to assist in preparing students to provide behavioral health services and to aid students from historically underrepresented populations to become behavioral health professionals; etc. | |
| HB1258 | | Primary and Secondary Education – Educational Options – Established | Delegate Kipke | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring/Possible Letter of Information | Establishing the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program to provide certain students with scholarships for students who are eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program to attend a nonpublic school; establishing the Maryland Public Charter School Authority as a public chartering authority under the Maryland Public Charter School Program with certain powers and responsibilities; allowing a parent or guardian a credit against the State income tax for certain home instruction expenses; etc. | We have concerns with the BOOST Program and the lack of a requirement to comply with IDEA. |
| HB1327 | | Education - Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students - Report | Delegates Bhandari, Lehman & Luedtke | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM W&M | Evaluating for Possible Support | Requiring the State Department of Education to study and make recommendations regarding the Home and Hospital Teaching Program for Students and instructional services and transition plans for students in the program. | May students are not getting the hours they need through this program due to a lack of personnel. The program must be reviewed! |
| Healthcare | | | | | | | |
| SB0048 | HB0014 | Health - Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives | Senator Kramer | In Senate Hearing Canceled FIN | Monitoring | Requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to coordinate the implementation of advance care planning programs in the State; requiring each health insurance carrier to offer electronic advance directives to its members and enrollees at certain times and make arrangements to receive certain notifications; and authorizing a health insurance carrier to contract with an electronic advance directives service under certain circumstances. | |
| HB0014 | SB0048 | Health - Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives | Delegate Cullison | Withdrawn by Sponsor | Monitoring | See above | |
| SB0082 | | Certified Nursing Assistants - Licensing Requirements | Senator Eckardt | In Senate Unfavorable Report EHEA | Monitoring | Requiring a certified nursing assistant to meet certain federal requirements and pass a competency exam on or after October 1, 2023; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish a program to assist certified nursing assistants in meeting licensing requirements established by the Act. | |
| HB0216 | | Washington County - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Programs - Essential Caregivers | Delegates Parrott & Thiam | In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM HGO | Monitoring for Impact on People with IDD | Requiring each nursing home and assisted living program in Washington County to establish policies and procedures authorizing indoor visitation from an essential caregiver; establishing the duties and authority of essential caregivers; and authorizing the nursing homes and assisted living programs to restrict or revoke essential caregiver status under certain circumstances. | |
| HB0407 | SB0407 | Health Occupations - Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency - Declaration and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022) | House Speaker at Request of Administration | In House Hearing 2/10 at 1:30 PM HGO | Monitoring | Authorizing the Secretary of Health to declare a health care staffing shortage emergency in the State; requiring each health occupations board to establish processes for the issuance of initial licenses, temporary licenses, and temporary practice letters on an expedited basis during a health care staffing shortage emergency; etc. | Doesn't currently name Developmental Disabilities Community Services but says it could extend to other healthcare personnel at the discretion of the Secretary. The language in the bill, by and large, references those professions who would work in a hospital. |
| SB0407 | HB0407 | Health Occupations - Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency - Declaration and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022) | Senate President at Request of Administration | In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM FIN | Monitoring | See above | See above |
| SB0506 | HB0725 | Children - Therapeutic Child Care Program - Funding | Senator King | In Senate Hearing 3/2 at 1 PM B&T | Evaluating | Establishing the Therapeutic Child Care Program to provide specialized child care and early childhood education by educators, early intervention providers, mental health providers, and health care providers to children under the age of 6 years who have delays in development, physical disabilities, or delays in social, emotional, or behavioral functioning. | The bill says it will "establish" a therapeutic nursery program funding, but as one already exists in the state, would this just increase funding to the existing program. Would prefer to see preference for funding go to programs that are inclusive of children with and without disabilities. |
| HB0725 | SB0506 | Children - Therapeutic Child Care Program - Funding | Delegate Luedtke et al. | In House Favorable with Amendments Report W&M | Evaluating | See above | See above |
| HB0406 | | Children in Out-of-Home Placements – Placement in Medical Facilities | Delegate Reznik | In House Favorable with Amendments Report APP | Monitoring | Altering the circumstances under which a court may commit a child for inpatient care and treatment in a psychiatric facility; establishing requirements and procedures for the placement by local departments of social services of certain children in medical facilities; establishing the Foster Child Support Fund to provide resources and support for children in out-of-home placements; establishing the Task Force to Examine the Placement of Foster Children in Emergency Departments; etc. | Evaluating for Implications |

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| Bill | Crossfiled Bill | Title | Sponsor | Status | Position | Description | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HB0544 | | Health Facilities - Residential Service Agencies - Reporting Requirement | Delegate Qi et al. | In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM HGO | Monitoring | Requiring residential service agencies receiving Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of home care or similar services by personal care aides to report by October 1 each year to the Maryland Department of Health information as to the personal care aides hourly pay rate, and whether the aides are classified as employees or independent contractors, whether the aides have health insurance and are covered by worker's compensation through the agency, and whether the aides have earned sick and safe leave provided by the agency. | |
| HB0657 | | Public Schools - Standardized Behavioral Health Screenings for Students - Development and Implementation | Delegate Guyton et al. | In House Hearing 2/24 at 1 PM W&M | Evaluating | Requiring the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports to develop, in consultation with certain stakeholders, guidelines for developing a standardized behavioral health screening to identify students with behavioral health services needs; requiring that the screening be given to the parent or guardian of each student when the student enrolls for school and every year thereafter; and requiring each behavioral health services coordinator to develop and implement a certain standardized behavioral health screening. | |
| SB0318 | HB0652 | More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022 | Senator Rosapepe et al. | In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM EHEA | Monitoring | Requiring certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education; requiring certain county boards to provide a method for certain individuals to not authorize the release of a student's personal information and certain results to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; requiring a county board to pay for a student to take an apprenticeship or industrial certification exam under certain circumstances; etc. | |
| HB0652 | SB0318 | More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022 | Delegate Guyton | In House Hearing 3/3 at 1 PM W&M | Monitoring | See above | |
| SB0600 | HB0544 | Health Facilities - Residential Service Agencies - Reporting Requirement | Senator Kelley et al. | Passed in Senate (32-15); In House First Reading HGO | Monitoring | Requiring residential service agencies receiving Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of home care or similar services by personal care aides to report by October 1 each year to the Maryland Department of Health information as to the personal care aides' hourly pay rate, whether the aides are classified as employees or independent contractors, whether the aides have health insurance and are covered by worker's compensation through the agency, and whether the aides have earned sick and safe leave provided by the agency. | This bill would require reporting on Personal Care Aide Pay- not affecting our statute, but watching for broader implications/benefits. |
| HB0544 | SB0600 | Health Facilities - Residential Service Agencies - Reporting Requirement | Delegate Qi et al. | In House Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 PM HGO | Monitoring | See above | See above |
| SB0637 | | Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services - Expansion (Behavioral Health System Modernization Act) | Senator Augustine | In Senate Hearing 2/23 at 1 PM FIN | Monitoring | Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide reimbursement for certain behavioral health peer recovery, measurement-based care, and crisis response services; requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage and reimbursement for certain behavioral health services; etc. | |
| HB1351 | | Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Related Institutions and Nursing Homes | Delegate Reznik | In House Hearing Canceled HGO | Evaluating | Authorizing the Secretary of Health, with the consent of a unit of local government, to delegate to the unit of local government the authority to inspect and to conduct site visits and full surveys of related institutions and nursing homes; and requiring related institutions and nursing homes to report certain information to a unit of local government if the Secretary has delegated inspection authority. | |
| HB1379 | | Hospitals, Related Institutions, and Hospice Facilities - COVID-19 and Other Catastrophic Health Emergencies - Visitation | Delegate Cox et al. | In House Hearing 3/14 at 2 PM HGO | Evaluating | Prohibiting a hospital, related institution, or hospice facility from restricting the visitation of a patient's family member or health care agent based on measures related to COVID-19 or any catastrophic health emergency; and authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to develop guidelines regarding the use of personal protective equipment by visitors if a patient is actively infected with COVID-19 or any disease constituting a catastrophic health emergency. | |
| SB0761 | HB1350 | Funding for Wage Increases for Medical Provider Workers | Senator Rosapepe | In Senate Hearing 3/9 at 1 PM B&T | Monitoring | Requiring that, in certain fiscal years, certain funding provided in the legislative appropriation to the Medical Care Programs Administration for medical care provider reimbursements be used for wage increases for health care workers and staff in nursing homes who provide direct care to residents. | Does not apply to DDA Providers. |
| HB1350 | SB0761 | Funding for Wage Increases for Medical Provider Workers | Delegate P. Young et al. | In House Hearing 3/10 at 1 PM APP | Monitoring | See above | See above |
| Justice & Civil Rights | | | | | | | |
| SB0008 | | Task Force to Study the Need for Enhanced Monitoring of Guardians of Vulnerable Minors | Senator Kelley et al. | In Senate Hearing 1/26 at 1 PM JPR | Monitoring | Establishing the Task Force to Study the Need for Enhanced Monitoring of Guardians of Vulnerable Minors to study the processes by which the State and local governments currently monitor guardians of vulnerable minors; requiring the Task Force to make recommendations on the need for enhanced monitoring of guardians of vulnerable minors, including any necessary regulatory changes or legislation; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly by October 1, 2023. | |
| HB0214 | | Juveniles - Reportable Offenses | Delegate Parrott | In House Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM JUD | Monitoring for Impact on People with IDD | Requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to notify a certain local superintendent of schools or school principal of a school in which a student is enrolled or has transferred of a student's arrest for a reportable offense or one that is related to a student's membership in a criminal organization; and requiring the Department to provide certain educational programming information to a certain student. | |
| HB0244 | SB0313 | Civil Actions - Damages - Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Data | Delegates Moon & J. Lewis et al. | In House Hearing 2/2 at 1 PM JUD | Monitoring for Possible Support with Amendments | Prohibiting a calculation of damages for loss of earnings resulting from personal injury or wrongful death from being reduced based on race, ethnicity, or gender; and applying the Act prospectively. | A CALCULATION OF DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF EARNINGS RESULTING FROM 16 PERSONAL INJURY OR WRONGFUL DEATH MAY NOT BE REDUCED BASED ON RACE, 17 ETHNICITY, OR GENDER. (amend to include disability) |
| SB0313 | HB0244 | Civil Actions - Damages - Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Data | Senators Watson & Carter | In Senate Hearing 2/9 at 1 PM JPR | Monitoring for Possible Support with Amendments | See above | See above |

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| Bill | Crossfiled Bill | Title | Sponsor | Status | Position | Description | Notes |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SB0357 | HB0589 | Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study | Senators Benson & Patterson et al. | Passed in Senate (44-0); In House First Reading JUD | Monitoring | Establishing certain requirements and procedures relating to the reporting, disclosure, investigation, and appeal of civil allegations and findings of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults; authorizing the Social Services Administration to establish and maintain a centralized confidential database for abused and neglected vulnerable adults; establishing a Workgroup to Study Best Practices for a Vulnerable Adult Registry in Maryland; etc. | The way in which the bill is worded is confusing and problematic. We would be very interested in the creation of an abuse registry in Maryland, but the infrastructure is that currently in place to support an effective and fair process. This bill does not create that process for people in DDA services. |
| HB0589 | SB0357 | Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study | Delegate W. Fisher et al. | In House Hearing 2/17 at 1 PM JUD | Monitoring | See above | See above |
| SB0694 | | Estates and Trusts - Guardianship of the Property of Disabled Persons - Court-Appointed Attorneys | Senator West | In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments | Evaluating | Requiring the State to pay reasonable attorney's fees incurred in representing an alleged disabled person who is indigent in a petition for the appointment of a guardian of the property of the person; and requiring the court, under certain circumstances, to appoint, for the alleged disabled person, an attorney who has contracted with the Department of Human Services. | |
| SB0710 | | Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Modifications | Senator Patterson | In Senate Hearing 3/8 at 1 PM JPR | Monitoring | Authorizing the expungement of certain arrest warrants under certain circumstances; altering the waiting periods for applying for expungement of certain records; altering the convictions for which an individual may seek expungement; and prohibiting certain records from being expunged by obliteration for a certain period of time and limiting access to the records during that time. | |

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COMMITTEES Click each committee or Name for Details and Contact Information

House Committees

| Abbreviation | Committee Name | Committee Chair | Committee Vice Chair |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| APP | Appropriations | Maggie McIntosh | Mark S. Chang |
| EMC | Economic Matters | C.T. Wilson | Brian M. Crosby |
| E&T | Environment and Transportation | Kumar P. Barve | Dana Stein |
| HGO | Health and Government Operations | Shane E. Pendergrass | Joseline Pena-Menlyk |
| HRU | Rules and Executive Nominations | Anne Healey | Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. |
| JUD | Judiciary | Luke Clippinger | David Moon |
| W&M | Ways and Means | Vanessa E. Atterbeary | Alonzo T. Washington |

Senate Committees

| Abbreviation | Committee Name | Committee Chair | Committee Vice Chair |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| B&T | Budget and Taxation | Guy Guzzone | Jim Rosapepe |
| EHEA | Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs | Paul G. Pinsky | Cheryl C Kagan |
| EXN | Executive Nominations | Ronald N. Young | Pamela Beidle |
| FIN | Finance | Delores G. Kelley | Brian J. Feldman |
| JPR | Judicial Proceedings | William C. Smith, Jr. | Jeff Waldstreicher |
| SRU | Rules | Joanne C. Benson | Shelly Hettleman |
| R&R | Reapportionment and Redistricting | Nancy J. King | Antonio Hayes |