

HB 450

Maryland Transit Administration – Disability Reduced Fare Program – Renewal for Permanently Disabled Individuals

Why is this Bill Important?

It requires the Maryland Transit Administration to automatically renew the Disability Reduced Fare Program certification of an enrollee who is permanently disabled. Currently, people with IDD (considered a permanent disability) have to renew their Disability Reduced Fair Program authorizations every 3 years. This bill makes it so that people do not have to go through a lengthy renewal process for a condition that is considered, by medical professionals, to be permanent.



Contact House Appropriations Committee Chair
Delegate Ben Barnes

ben.barnes@house.state.md.us 410-841-3046

Tell him why this bill matters to you! Ask him to please move this bill favorable out of committee today!

HB 430

Employed Individuals With Disabilities Program – Upper Age Limit – Prohibition

Why is this Bill Important?

There is currently an age limit of **64 years old** to participate in the EID program, which allows individuals with disabilities to work and pay into the program to be covered by Medicaid. **This bill removes the upper age limit, which would allow people to continue to work and keep their medical assistance through this Medicaid buy-in program, ensuring people can continue to work, earn a living, and continue to have access to the Medicaid supports they need for health and safety.**



Contact House Health & Governmental Operations Committee Chair
Joseline Pena-Melnyk

joseline.pena.melnyk@house.state.md.us 410-841-3502

Tell her why this bill matters to you! Ask her to please move this bill favorable out of committee today!

HB 927

General Assembly – Fiscal Notes – Impact of Reduction in Health and Community Support Services

Why is this Bill Important?

It would require that the fiscal note for a bill that reduces health and community support services funded by the Maryland Department of Health include a certain estimate, assessment, and evaluation of the financial impact as a result of the reduction of services. **This is important because it would require departments to disclose their analysis of the human impact of changes they are proposing to existing statutes and proposed new initiatives.**



Contact House Rules Committee Chair
Delegate Anne Healey

anne.healey@house.state.md.us 410-841-3961

Tell her why this bill matters to you! Ask her to please move this bill favorable out of committee today!

HB 31 / SB 382

Consumer Protection – Right to Repair – Powered Wheelchairs

Why is this Bill Important?

It can often take several months for specialized wheelchairs to be repaired. Repairs can be costly, leaving people without access to a safe and reliable wheelchair. Much of this has to do with a lack of cooperation and information sharing from wheelchair manufacturers to repair companies, and a lack of transparency about costs and parts alternatives. **This bill would require anyone doing business in Maryland to sell and repair wheelchairs, provide information to consumers, and collaborate for more timely, cost-efficient repairs.**



Contact House Economic Matters Chair and Senate Finance Chair
Delegate C.T. Wilson ct.wilson@house.state.md.us 410-841-3325
Senator Pam Beidle pamela.beidle@senate.state.md.us 410-841-3593

Tell them why these bills matter to you! Ask them to please move these bills favorable out of committee today!

HB 1204

Public and Nonpublic Schools – Student Elopement – Notice and Reporting Requirements

Why is this Bill Important?

This bill would require schools to notify a parent or guardian if a student attempts or accomplishes an elopement from school (wandering away) without permission. It would also require schools to report on incidents of student elopement from school. **Currently, schools are not compelled to notify a parent within 24 hours if their child has eloped, or attempted elopement from school.** This bill would ensure parents are aware of possible dangers and behaviors of their children for intervention.



Contact House Ways and Means Committee Chair
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary

vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us 410-841-3471

Tell her why this bill matters to you! Ask her to please move this bill favorable out of committee today!

HB 1244

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council – Establishment

Why is this Bill Important?

It codifies the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council and clarifies its purpose to advise and provide recommendations to the DDA on system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement. With necessary Sponsor Amendments, it **requires the membership of The Arc Maryland and MACS on the Council** - two statewide organizations that have been previously excluded from membership by the DDA.



Contact House Health & Governmental Operations Committee Chair
Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk
joseline.pena.melnyk@house.state.md.us 410-841-3502

Tell her why this bill matters to you! Ask her to please move this bill favorable out of committee today!

SB 851

Public Schools – Individuals With Disabilities – Main Entrance Accessibility and Emergency Planning

Why is this Bill Important?

This bill is important to improve **equal access for students with physical disabilities to use the same main entrance door as their peers**. Also, schools are required to have emergency evacuation plans with equipment on site for evacuating students with physical disabilities during emergencies such as a fire. **Many schools have reported they do not have this equipment. This bill would require a report for future planning purposes.**



Contact: Senate EEE Committee Chair

Senator Brian Feldman

brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us 410-841-3169

Tell him why this bill matters to you! Ask him to please move this bill favorable out of committee today!

HB 703 / SB 507

Criminal Procedure – Diagnosis of Developmental Disability or Intellectual Disability – Evidence

Why is this Bill Important?

Under existing law, a person's developmental disability can only be considered **during sentencing** – after they have already been found guilty or entered a guilty plea. This approach fails to account for how developmental disabilities may impact behavior and understanding from the very beginning of legal proceedings. This bill **allows evidence of a disability to be considered at the beginning of a case**, not just during the sentencing phase.



Contact: House JUD & Senate JPR Committee Chairs

Delegate Luke Clippinger luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us 410-841-3488

Senator Will Smith will.smith@senate.state.md.us 410-841-3634

Tell them why these bills matter to you! Ask them to please move these bills favorable out of committee today!

HB 1097 / SB 929

Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility

Why is this Bill Important?

This bill would establish the Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility to examine current processes in the State relating to mail-in ballot return, assess the impact on voters with disabilities, collect information about current practices for accessible alternatives to paper mail-in ballot return, and evaluate the alternatives for individuals with disabilities. The Arc Maryland is named as a workgroup member examining these issues and solutions.



Contact: House W&M Committee Chair and Senate EEE Committee Chairs
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us 410-841-3471
Senator Brian Feldman brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us 410-841-3169

Tell them why these bills matter to you! Ask them to please move these bills favorable out of committee today!