



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 796

DATE: March 6, 2020

SPONSOR: Senator Guzzone

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

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POSITION: SUPPORT

Developmental Disabilities Administration – Program Changes and Required Reports

Senate Bill 796 would require that the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and the Maryland Department of Health must ensure there are no adverse impacts from the implementation of the Long Term Services and Supports software system (LTSS) and Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system; that an individual who loses eligibility for services have 30 days to appeal the determination; services will continue while an appeal is in process; and DDA must notify the service provider of an individual notified of loss of service when the loss of eligibility notice is sent to the individual.

The bill would also prohibit putting in place the new waiver definitions, new billing system requirements, and LTSS before July 1, 2021 and implementing EVV until January 1, 2021. It also requires a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2020 on the implementation of many parts of the Transformation Plan.

There are critical infrastructure issues at DDA that must be addressed before embarking on many of the non-federally mandated transformation plan changes being undertaken by DDA. Concerns about the adverse impacts of the Transformation Plan and DDA's roll-out of LTSS and EVV were voiced to the County by the 2018 report of the Montgomery County Workgroup on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences. Most recently, very specific concerns have been raised about LTSS and whether it adequately protects privacy and is secure. Individuals with developmental differences, service providers, and family members/caregivers in Montgomery County continue to be fearful about DDA's implementation timeline because there has been so little testing of the LTSS system, provider reimbursement rates have not been finalized, and it is unclear what services can actually be provided and be reimbursed under the proposed changes.

Senate Bill 796 is a critical piece of legislation as it will formalize the delay of the implementation of LTSS and EVV and require DDA and the Maryland Department of Health to ensure the vulnerable populations served by DDA are not adversely impacted by the implementation of the proposed changes. Montgomery County urges the Committee to issue a favorable report.