

HB 662 - Favorable - Guyton - Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee
Early Childhood Subcommittee
Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2022

HB662-Autism Coordinator Revisions - FAVORABLE

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to request a favorable report on HB662 which makes a few simple changes to the State Coordinator of Autism Strategy and Stakeholder's Advisory Group that was established with the passage of HB847 in 2020.

The Autism Coordinator position has recently been filled and the Stakeholder group met for the first time just last month.

HB662 is necessary due to the movement of this position to the Governor's Coordinating Offices and observation of the initial implementation of the original bill. HB662 is similar, but not identical, to the Departmental Bill (SB169) already heard in the Senate Finance Committee. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB662 RATHER than the competing SB169.

Similarities - HB662 adds the Autism Coordinator to the Interagency Disabilities Board, adds Members of the House and Senate to the stakeholder's advisory group, and moves the responsibility of staffing the stakeholder group to the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives from the Department of Disabilities where it is no longer housed.

Differences - HB662 retains the Coordinator as Chair of the Advisory Group as required by HB847 and requires the Coordinator to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate in order to elevate this position and provide legislative oversight to ensure that the most qualified applicants serve in this position. The amendments I have introduced includes the requirement to consider geographical diversity of the state during the appointments process and a clarifying amendment that the Coordinator can add members to the advisory group as considered necessary. In addition this amendment requires funding of a full-time administrative assistant for this office. Thank you for your consideration of HB662.

Sincerely,

Delegate Michele Guyton, District 42B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Testimony In Support of HB 662 - Finance - Autism

Uploaded by: Rich Ceruolo

Position: FAV



March 28, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates and Maryland Senate
6 – 11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 662: Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism Related Needs and the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy – Membership, Staffing and Appointments.

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates and Maryland Senate Committee Members.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 members and fully support adding the State's Coordinator for Autism Strategy to the interagency committees and thereby adding to the diversity and expertise of Autism Needs stakeholder workgroup(s).

I am the parent of a child with multiple challenges and disabilities. I am also the Public Policy Director for the Parent Advocacy Consortium. Together we advocate for children like my son, and other individuals with disabilities that require time, resources and support to help them in getting them what they need in order to reach their full potential. Our military and non-military families of children with disabilities especially need the support that this program provides to families.

We fully support the funding of the Autism Stakeholder Group, improving the quality and availability of services to families. And hopefully ending the very long wait for services that many families experience. Please let's put taxpayer dollars to some positive use for the futures and improved outcomes for all children with disabilities like Autism.

Time is of the essence in making a positive change in the lives of our children. Please put the funding in place so that we can start the hard work of studying and implementing programs that have worked to improve the lives and outcomes of all of our children.

Please support HB 662. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | richceruolo@gmail.com
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy
Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta) |
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>

Letter of Information -- HB 662.pdf

Uploaded by: patrick lally

Position: INFO



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Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 662 -- Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs, Interagency Disabilities Board, and the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy -- Membership, Staffing, and Appointment

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Finance Committee:

This informational letter regards the similarities and differences between **House Bill 662 -- Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs, Interagency Disabilities Board, and the State Coordinator for Autism Strategy -- Membership, Staffing, and Appointment** (HB 662) and **SB 169 -- State Autism Strategy -- Revisions**, the departmental legislation that was passed out of the Finance Committee and Senate unanimously and is now scheduled for a hearing in Appropriations on April 4, 2022.

Like SB 169, HB 662 would add to the Advisory Group's membership representation from the General Assembly.

Other aspects of HB 662 are distinctly different from SB 169 in the following areas:

- HB 662 was amended in the House and would now require an annual appropriation to GOCI for one support position for the State Coordinator.

- HB 662 would not amend the existing statute by transferring Sections 7–111 and 7–112 of the Human Services Article, to Sections 9.5 –102 and 9.5–103 of the State Government Article, as would SB 169. By not transferring these sections, HB 662 would not provide additional clarity on the Advisory Group and Coordinator position by eliminating incorrect references to the Department of Disabilities related to staffing and aligning the budget appropriation with GOCI, the jurisdictional government entity;
- HB 662 would not change the annual reporting due date from July to December so that the report would align with related and companion state reporting;
- In contrast to SB 169, the Coordinator position under HB 669 would be subject to the Executive Nominations process. The Coordinator would also be added to the Interagency Disabilities Board and the Governor would be required, beginning in fiscal year 2024, to provide funding in the budget for a support staff position for the State Coordinator.
- HB 662 would not amend the Advisory Group’s administrative and leadership infrastructure to comport with similar state governmental advisory groups and commissions, particularly those already in GOCI’s portfolio.

Regarding the last bulleted item (above), HB 662 would not change the current provision that requires the Coordinator to serve as chair of the Advisory Group and would not establish a separate coordinator and chair. Having a different coordinator and chair as provided in SB 169 is consistent with the standard organizational structure of the commissions already under GOCI and comports with best practices recommended by the State Transparency and Accountability Reform Commission report on agency operations and structures issued in December of 2021 (report required by Executive Order 01.01.2020.05).

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives requests that you consider this information regarding HB 662.

Sincerely,

Steven J. McAdams, Executive Director
Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives