

SB168 - Establishing a Dev Disabilities Council Te

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Position: FAV

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 Baltimore District

Written Testimony
Senate Bill 168 - Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council –
Establishment
Senate Finance Committee – February 7, 2023

Support

Background: Senate Bill 168 would establish the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council to promote inclusive communities and equity in services for individuals with disabilities in the State; research best practices and provide related training and technical assistance to communities in the State; and inform State and local leaders about disability issues.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. This includes Jewish Community Services (JCS), which provides counseling, advocacy, and case management services to adults, and families of individuals with disabilities. Other services include assistance with independent living skills, tutoring, and locating and obtaining special equipment. JCS works with the Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) to obtain and fund resources and services.

Additionally, JCS has residences established to enable adults with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible and participate fully in community life. Currently, JCS operates nine professionally staffed homes, each with 3 to 4 participants, in Northwest Baltimore City and Baltimore County who receive residential funding from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

As large advocates and supporters of the developmental disability community, this agency of the Associated would benefit greatly from the establishment of the Council proposed in SB168 for guidance, best practices, training, and more.

The Associated strives to foster a welcoming and inclusive community for all community members, and as such, supporting people of all abilities, their caregivers, and loved ones is a priority. Disability impacts all of us. According to the CDC, 25.6% of adults in the U.S. and 21.5% of adults in Maryland have some type of disability (*Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for Maryland (Adults 18+ years of age)*). **For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB168.**

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

SB168_Support_The Arc Maryland. MACS.pdf

Uploaded by: Ande Kolp

Position: FAV



SB168- Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council – Establishment
Senate Finance Committee
February 7, 2023
Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a non-profit association of over 100 DDA-licensed agencies that provide community supports to people across the state. We support SB168 as it will establish the Maryland Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council as an independent unit of state government, outlines requirements of the Council that mirror federal law, and clarifies the purpose of the Council; to address identified needs through advocacy, system change, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion.

Background: There are 56 DD Councils nationally- one in every state and US territory. The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. Currently, the MDDC is positioned under the Maryland Department of Disabilities, but this structure is not necessary, nor does it align with the independent, self-governing nature of the MDDC. The MDDC operates under a federal mandate and with federal funding, reporting directly to the Administration for Community Living of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

This bill would move the MDDC out from under the Department of Disabilities and would codify that a state entity may not interfere with the Council's work, budget, personnel, or state plan development or implementation. In fulfillment of its duties, the MDDC may advocate for a position that may not always align with the views of the Governor or the MDOD. This is why establishing the MDDC's autonomy as an independent unit is important.

The Arc Maryland and MACS partner with the MDDC on many issues, and we are members of the Developmental Disabilities Coalition. For decades we have worked cooperatively to advocate for positive systems changes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We place high value on our partnership and believe this bill will help to ensure the Council's autonomy and independence so they may excel; serving Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities.

Contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director of The Arc Maryland, akolp@thearcmd.org or;
Laura Howell, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Services,
lhowell@macsonline.org

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV_SB168.pdf

Uploaded by: Brian Barnwell

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 7, 2023

SB 168

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council – Establishment

Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 168 establishes the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of State government with the authority to conduct and support advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building efforts to promote inclusive communities and equity in services for individuals with disabilities in the State.

Senate Bill 168, will, among other things, provide authority to the Council to (a) develop and implement a 5 year strategic plan; (b) monitor, review, and annually evaluate the implementation of the State Plan; (c) review any plan in the State that relates to programs affecting individuals with Developmental Disabilities; (d) serve as an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities; (e) conduct or support programs, projects, and activities that carry out the purpose of the act; (f) advise the Governor, State Legislature, and other pertinent agencies and organizations on policies, programs, and issues related to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; and (g) review and make findings and recommendations regarding programs related to the support and services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Recent estimates in the United States show that about one in six, or about 17%, of children aged 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities.¹ The establishment of a Council to research and support programming, services, and policy will provide helpful

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/developmentaldisabilities/about.html>

advocacy for those with developmental disabilities. The Conference fully supports policies that help people obtain the best quality of life possible. Because this bill aims to help people with developmental disabilities obtain a better quality of life, the Conference urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 168.

SB168_ MDOD_ LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hall

Position: FAV

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 7, 2023

BILL: Senate Bill 168: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee

POSITION: Letter of Support

Dear Chair Griffith,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 168: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment.

Under Senate Bill 168, The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (The Council) would become an independent unit of state government. The Council already operates in this manner under the Department of Disabilities. The Council was established in 1971 in Maryland by Executive Order, which was most recently revised in 1987.

This bill will codify the existing operations and align The Council and the revised Executive Order with the federal Developmental Disability Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act). The DD Act is the federal legislation which establishes a Developmental Disabilities Council in each state and territory. The Council receives 100% of its funding from the federal government and must comply with the DD Act.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary

2023-02-07 SB 168 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: FAV

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General



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February 7, 2023

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB 168 – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council – Establishment
(Support)

The Office of the Attorney General supports Senate Bill 168, Senator Guzzone's bill to codify the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of State government. If enacted, this bill would ensure that Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Council complies with federal law.

Federal "developmental disability" legislation dates back to the Kennedy administration. The 1975 law - the "Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act" (DD Act) clearly identified that people with developmental disabilities were entitled to a variety of services and opportunities and that people with developmental disabilities and parents should participate in decisions about services/funding. The DD Act established the Developmental Disabilities Councils (DD Councils) to coordinate and integrate the provision of services for individuals with developmental disabilities in the least restrictive environment.

The most recent amendments to the DD Act were in 2000. The 2000 amendments to the law added that the makeup of DD Councils shall be comprised of 60% of people with developmental disabilities and their families, among a number of other changes, including but not limited to: increasing the accountability of programs funded under the DD Act, and aiming to increase coordination and collaboration within and across those programs. There is a DD Council in every U.S. state, including Maryland, and territory. The 56 DD Councils across states and territories work to address identified needs by conducting advocacy, systems change, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion. Key activities include conducting outreach, providing training and technical assistance, removing barriers, developing coalitions, encouraging citizen participation, and keeping policymakers informed about developmental disability issues.

Approximately 6 million individuals in the U.S. have developmental disabilities. Approximately 108,000 Marylanders have developmental disabilities. The Council is 100% federally funded and must comply with the DD Act. At the State level, the Maryland DD Council was formally established through executive order in 1971, with the most recent changes in 1987. This legislation is necessary because the language in the existing executive order is not current or consistent with the current DD Act. Of the 56 DD Councils across the U.S. states and territories, a majority (33) are formally codified in state statute. Of those 33, 9 are their own designated state agency. It is high time that Maryland caught up with the majority of states and codified it's Developmental Disabilities Council into Maryland law.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General Anthony G. Brown urges a favorable report on SB 168.

cc: The Honorable Guy Guzzone & Committee Members

SB168 Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Uploaded by: Mary Manzoni

Position: FAV



SB 168: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council – Establishment

Written Testimony of Mary Manzoni, CEO, Maryland Works

Presented to the Senate Finance Committee

February 6, 2023

Position: Support

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Mary Manzoni. I serve as CEO of Maryland Works, an advocacy organization that expands employment and business ownership opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers. I am writing today in support of SB 168. The Maryland State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities was established by Governor Marvin Mandel's Executive Order in 1971 to carry out provisions of the federal Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970 (PL 91-517) and Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 1975 (PL 94-10). Those previous acts are now the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402). Additionally, the Maryland State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities is now known as the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council.

Your support of SB 168 would:

1. **Establish the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of state government.** Currently, the Council is a program of the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD). The Council and MDOD agree that this restructuring is necessary for the reasons outlined below.
2. **Update an outdated Executive Order and codify the Council's authority in state law.** In 1971, the governor formally established the Council by executive order to carry out the



functions outlined in the DD Act. That executive order was updated in 1987 but has not been updated since.

3. **Outline other requirements that mirror the federal law.**
4. **Codify that a state entity may not interfere with the Council's work, budget, personnel, or state plan development or implementation.** This aligns with the requirement of the DD Act and allows the Council to continue their advocacy, capacity building, and systems change efforts.

Reasons this legislation is important:

1. It updates language, aligns with federal law to be current and consistent, moves the Council out of the Department of Disabilities, and codifies current operations.
2. Moving the Council from under the structure of MDOD better aligns with the spirit and intent of the DD Act.

On behalf of our entire organization, we thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and urge your favorable report on SB 168.

Very respectfully,

Mary Manzoni

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Manzoni'.

Chief Executive Officer

Maryland Works

SB168_DD Council_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Finance Committee

SB 168: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council – Establishment

February 7, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. Our vision is that people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together. We have been creating change to make that possible and improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities since 1971.

The Council was established through federal law and operates according to the law's mandates and related regulations and policies. **The federal law – the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) – guides our work, and all of our funding comes from the federal government.** The Council is located within state government, but we are independent. **The DD Act explicitly requires this independence, stating that the State must provide assurance that any “agency, office or entity of the State, will not interfere with the advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities, budget, personnel, State plan development, or plan implementation of the Council.” This is the “non-interference clause.”** People with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities lead our work.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- **Establishes the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of state government.** Currently, the Council is a program of the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD). The Council and MDOD agree that this restructuring is necessary for the reasons outlined below.
- **Updates an outdated Executive Order and codifies our authority in state law.** In 1971, the governor formally established the Council by executive order to carry out the functions outlined in the DD Act. That executive order was updated in 1987, but has not been updated since.
- **Outlines other requirements that mirror the federal law.**
- **Codifies that a state entity may not interfere with the Council's work, budget, personnel, or state plan development or implementation.** This aligns with the requirement of the DD Act and allows the Council to continue our advocacy, capacity building, and systems change efforts.

WHY is this legislation important?

- It updates language, aligns with federal law to be current and consistent, moves us out of the Department of Disabilities, and codifies current operations.
- Moving the Council from under the structure of MDOD better aligns with the spirit and intent of the DD Act.

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Dee Sapp, *Chairperson* • Rachel London, Esq., *Executive Director*

- While MDOD and the Council work closely together, and have a strong, positive, and productive working relationship, being within the formal structure is cumbersome, unnecessary, and can lead to misunderstandings because the Council does not operate under the direction of the Governor or MDOD. **As federal law requires, the Council's positions, decisions, and actions are solely our own and should not reflect on MDOD.**
- The Council will continue to create change and improve lives by:
 - Leading the way with new ideas and taking bold steps to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.
 - Empowering people to advocate effectively for themselves
 - Advocating for people with developmental disabilities have the same opportunities in life as others.
 - Advising leaders in state government and the legislature to improve laws, policies, programs, and services.
 - Finding solutions, testing new ideas, and making a difference.
- The Department of Disabilities and all of our colleagues and partners support this move, and Maryland will join the majority of other DD Councils that exist under their state laws rather than executive orders.

The Council will remain accountable to applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and policies, and will continue to create change, but **we will be able to do this – and continue to be innovative - without any misunderstanding and while operating in a more streamlined manner.**

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

SB0168_CC_Vaughan_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Regan Vaughan

Position: FAV



SB 168
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council - Establishment
Finance Committee
February 7, 2023

Favorable

Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports SB 168 which would establish the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of state government.

Inspired by the Gospel to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. For 100 years, Catholic Charities has accompanied Marylanders as they age with dignity, obtain empowering careers, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve economic independence, prepare for educational success and feel welcome as immigrant neighbors. We recognize the important role the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council plays in creating the change necessary for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the supports that they need.

In 1977, Catholic Charities welcomed 13 children who had been living in a state institution to a residential facility on Pot Spring Road that would become the home of Gallagher Services. Our mission was clear – upholding every person’s dignity and opening doors to a fuller life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program grew quickly, more than tripling in size in its first year in response to local need. Today, we offer vocational training, supported employment, day habitation, community integration and independent living in nearly 50 homes throughout the Baltimore region.

Our programming could not have evolved without the steadfast work of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council. The Council has been a leader in advocating for, supporting and shaping the State’s commitment to inclusion. SB 168 is an important step in recognizing the independence of the Council. It will also streamline operations for the Council.

For the reasons listed above, Catholic Charities of Baltimore appreciates your consideration, and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB168.

Submitted By: Regan Vaughan, Director of Advocacy

Edit - Testimony In Support of SB 168 - HB 504 - F

Uploaded by: Rich Ceruolo

Position: FAV



February 5, 2023

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of SB 168 / HB 504: Maryland Developmental Disability Council - Establishment

Members of the Maryland Senate's Finance Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members advocating for the care and needs of our children with disabilities.

We support this bill which would establish a Maryland Disability Council to student the needs of students with disabilities and help to improve overall outcomes for all of our children.

This type of agency we hope would have the ability to addresses issues related to health care, social emotional learning, academics, school environments for children with disabilities, and transportation related to access to care for these students. We would like to see this kind of agency oversee and foster more inclusion and services for students across all life settings. And we trust that it will be baked into the recipe of overall health and developmental support programing as we move forward with the educating and caring for ALL of our children under Maryland's Blueprint Law through wrap around supports. But especially those children who have been marginalized and largely forgotten by the health and education systems for far too long.

Maryland children need these types of support programs to be in place, and enhanced, as we help them build toward a brighter future, and improved outcomes for all children, and especially those with disabilities.

Please support SB 168 / HB 504 and return a favorable report. 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>

SB 168 Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Uploaded by: Tammy Bresnahan

Position: FAV



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**SB 168 Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council – Establishment
Senate Finance Committee
FAVORABLE
February 7, 2023**

Good afternoon Chair Griffith and members of the Senate Finance Committee. On behalf of our almost 900,000 members, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 168 Maryland Development Disabilities Council--Establishment. We thank Chair Guzzone for introducing SB 168.

HB168 establishes the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of State government with the authority to conduct and support advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building efforts to promote inclusive communities and equity in services for individuals with disabilities.

The Development Disabilities Council's role is to strengthen the voice of people with developmental disabilities and their families in Maryland. The Council supports greater independence, inclusion, empowerment and the pursuit of life as they choose. They strive to create change that eliminates discrimination and removes barriers to full inclusion. The Council will have direct contact with individuals with development disabilities, families, and caregivers. They provide a venue for policymakers and agencies to listen to people with development disabilities and their families. They perform comprehensive reviews and analyses of needs, services and supports. They develop and implement state plans every five years to respond to needs and leverage funding to make investments towards greater impact.

For these reasons, AARP MD ask for a favorable report on SB 168 to codify the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council as an independent unit of state government. If you have questions, please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

