



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Senate Finance Committee

HB 822: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals with Disabilities

March 26, 2024

Position: Support



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The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. HB 822 would do just that. The Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program extends Medical Assistance health benefits to Marylanders that work. **HB 822 is an important step to ensure more people with disabilities can work and receive the support they need to do so.**

WHAT does this bill do?

- Eliminates the income limit for EID recipients.
- Makes the application process easier.
- Provides clear guidelines for eligibility and requires the use of plain language.
- Requires the Department to get feedback from stakeholders, and report to the General Assembly about the impact of expanding eligibility to people age 65 and older.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Removes barriers to competitive employment.** People with disabilities want real jobs with real wages, but face various barriers, including the lack of services and support to help them. Medicaid is an important source of coverage for services that support the ability of people with disabilities to work, such as personal assistance services, prescription drugs, and assistive technology.
- **Helps people with disabilities maintain access to these critical services.** The EID Program provides medically necessary services and supports to ensure people with disabilities can work. When the Program was created, perhaps many people retired at 65, but that is not true anymore. **Requiring the Department to report on the impact of increase the age limit is an important step. Many people work beyond age 65 and those that want to should continue to receive the services and supports they need to continue to be productive, active employees.**
- **Promotes real jobs with real wages.** By removing income and some asset limits, people can keep their services while also advancing their careers, getting pay raises, and saving for retirement.

It is critical that people with disabilities have full access to the services and supports they need and want to be able to work and thrive in their communities. HB 822 does just that by supporting the ability of working Marylanders with disabilities to access and maintain Medicaid coverage.

For more information, contact any member of the DD Coalition.