

CATHI FORBES
Legislative District 43B
Baltimore County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees
Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development
Chair, Oversight Committee on Pensions



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3487 · 301-858-3487
800-492-7122 Ext. 3487
Catherine.Forbes@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 336

Maryland Achieving a Better Life (ABLE) Program –
Materials for Individualized Education Program Meetings

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Ways & Means

January 31, 2024

What this bill does

This bill is intended to raise the profile and participation in the existing [Maryland ABLE](#) account program by delivering information about the program to parents of children with disabilities at Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504, and Individual Family Support Plan meetings.

Why this bill matters

Maryland ABLE accounts are a way to help individuals with disabilities save money and pay for qualified expenses without jeopardizing their state and federal means-tested benefits like SSI or Medicaid. Money deposited in an ABLE account can be invested and any gains are tax free providing withdrawals are used for [qualified expenses](#). What is considered a qualified expense is broad but can include education, housing, transportation, assistive technology, and health care and wellness expenses.

But unfortunately, these accounts are underutilized. The simplicity of this bill is to deliver promotional materials to families that we know would qualify and benefit from a Maryland ABLE account during IEP, 504, and Individual Family Support plan meetings.

Why you should vote for this bill

Previous members of the General Assembly created the Maryland ABLE program, this bill will ensure that families in our state know that it exists and can take advantage of it.

I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.