



DATE: January 31, 2024

BILL: HB 336: Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program Meetings

COMMITTEE: House Ways & Means Committee

POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chair Atterbeary,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for House Bill 336: Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program.

Under House Bill 336, local school systems would be required to provide parents with informational materials regarding the Maryland ABLE Program at their child's yearly individualized education program (IEP) meeting.

Maryland ABLE accounts are an important tool that helps individuals with disabilities save money and pay for qualified disability-related expenses without putting their state or federal benefits at risk. This bill seeks to provide increased opportunities to educate families about the benefits of establishing an ABLE account.

Promoting the health, independence, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities are values shared by both Maryland ABLE and MDOD. By increasing awareness of ABLE accounts we can ensure these values are realized by more people across the state.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Disabilities respectfully requests a favorable report for HB 336.

If you have any questions please contact Lisa Belcastro, Deputy Secretary, [Lisa.Belcastro@maryland.gov](mailto:Lisa.Belcastro@maryland.gov), (443) 941-5094.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary