

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Lisa Belcastro, Deputy Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 7, 2024
BILL: HB 60: Rehabilitation Services - Disability - Definition
COMMITTEE: Ways & Means
POSITION: Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for House Bill 60: Rehabilitation Services - Disability - Definition.

Under House Bill 60, the definition of “disability” relating to the provision of rehabilitation services in the State would be brought into alignment with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and make important updates to language in reference to people with disabilities.

The Education Article, Section 21-301, makes reference to the terms “defect”, “infirmity”, and “incapacitate”. This bill would replace these outdated and offensive terms with language that reduces stigma and values the rights and contributions of people with disabilities in society.

For these reasons, MDOD respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 60.

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

Sincerely,

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary