



HB 127: Department of Housing and Community Development - Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program - Local Rehabilitation Program Administration

Testimony of the Maryland Independent Living Network

SUPPORT – Favorable

House Environment and Transportation Committee, January 28, 2025

The Maryland Independent Living Network is a coalition of the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council and the seven Maryland-based Centers for Independent Living (CIL). CILs are created by federal law. CILs work to enhance the civil rights and quality of services for people with disabilities. There are seven CILs located throughout Maryland, operated by and for people with disabilities. CILs provide Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills training, and Transition Services to individuals with disabilities in their communities.

The Independent Living Network submits this written testimony in **support** of HB 127.

HB 127 expands entities eligible to administer local rehabilitation programs under the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program (MHRP) in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to include nonprofit sponsors.

Nonprofits are pillars of the communities that they serve and have knowledge of the individuals in their communities that may be in need of assistance to make functional changes to their homes and residences so that they can remain in the community of their choice.

Centers for Independent Living are nonprofit entities that serve people with disabilities and older adults. Many CILs across the country provide rehabilitation funding for increased accessibility and safer housing. Individuals with disabilities may need modifications to their homes and residences in order to fully enjoy the benefits of living in the community of their choice. CILs in Maryland can take on the role of connecting people with disabilities with no-cost or low-interest funds to make modifications or otherwise improve the safety of the homes and residences of people with disabilities.

We appreciate the consideration of these comments. Accordingly, the Maryland Independent Living Network strongly **supports** HB 127.

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