



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Gloria Brown Burnett, Interim Secretary

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
100 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1062 - ESTATES AND TRUSTS - JURISDICTION OVER
PROPERTY OF MINORS OR DISABLED PERSONS - AUTHORIZED TRANSACTIONS -
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1062 (HB 1062).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Social Services Administration (SSA) implements the Emerging Adults (EA) Program which is affected by HB 1062. HB 1062 would remove procedural barriers that prevent minors or persons with disabilities from accessing financial information or qualifying for financial benefits.

HB 1062 permits a circuit court to grant access to financial records and establish eligibility for government assistance programs without appointing a guardian when assuming jurisdiction over the property of a minor or a disabled person. Removing these procedural barriers would have a direct positive effect on the EA Program as we assist youth who are aging out of care in their transition to adulthood.

HB 1062 would empower youth with faster access to federal benefits (SSI, disability, medicaid), reduce delays in housing placements requiring income verification, avoid unnecessary full guardianship court orders, and provide more autonomy for youth transitioning out of the care and custody of the Department.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gloria Brown Burnett
Interim Secretary