



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2026

HB 1062: Estates and Trusts – Jurisdiction Over Property of Minors or Disabled Persons – Authorized Transactions

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to lead the lives they want with the support they need. As a statewide public policy organization led by people with developmental disabilities and their families, we support HB 1062 as another way to make sure that happens.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Allows courts to authorize or direct transactions that include granting access to a minor or disabled person’s financial records and establishing eligibility for government assistance programs **without appointing a guardian.**

WHY is it important?

- **It expands alternatives to guardianship.** Too often people with disabilities have been placed in overbroad and unnecessary guardianships based on stereotypes about their capabilities. **Guardianship is incredibly restrictive—it takes away a person’s basic rights to direct their life.**
- **Alternatives to guardianship allow people to keep their decision-making authority.** In 2022, the Council led efforts to codify the use of supported decision-making in Maryland. Supported decision making allows a person to continue to make their own decisions—just recognizing that they use support to do so. It preserves a person’s right to make their own choices—fundamentally it is their right to have rights.
- **Aligns with Rule 10-304.2 passed by the Supreme Court of Maryland in February 2026.** Rule 10-304.2 allows circuit courts in Maryland to authorize an action or series of actions to “meet a demonstrated need of a minor or disabled person as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship of property.” These actions include granting access to financial or other records related to a minor or disabled person and establishing eligibility for benefits.

All people deserve the right to make their own decisions. HB 1062 creates another way for people with disabilities to keep those rights. For these reasons, the Council supports HB 1062.

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