

HOUSE BILL 822

J1, O3

4lr3172

By: **Delegate Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals With Disabilities**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide Maryland
4 Medical Assistance Program services for individuals under the Employed
5 Individuals with Disabilities Program in accordance with certain requirements;
6 prohibiting the Department from limiting eligibility to receive services under the
7 EID Program based on certain criteria; repealing certain provisions of law relating
8 to the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program; and generally relating to the
9 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and services for individuals with disabilities.

10 BY repealing

11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 15–138
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 15–138
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 [15–138.

24 (a) To the extent that funding is available in the State budget, the Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Department of Health shall implement the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program
2 by July 1, 2005.

3 (b) The purpose of the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program is to
4 encourage individuals with disabilities to seek or maintain employment.

5 (c) (1) The Secretary shall adopt regulations that develop specific eligibility
6 criteria for participation in the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program.

7 (2) Prior to adopting the regulations required under paragraph (1) of this
8 subsection, the Department shall:

9 (i) Consult with the Coalition for Work Incentives Improvement;
10 and

11 (ii) Give preference to the recommendations for eligibility criteria
12 developed by the Coalition.

13 (d) At least every 3 years after the adoption of the regulations required under
14 subsection (c) of this section, the Department shall review the regulations in consultation
15 with the Coalition for Work Incentives Improvement.]

16 **15-138.**

17 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
18 **INDICATED.**

19 **(2) "EID PROGRAM" MEANS THE EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS WITH**
20 **DISABILITIES PROGRAM OPERATED UNDER THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**
21 **PROGRAM.**

22 **(3) "INDEPENDENCE ACCOUNT" MEANS A FINANCIAL ACCOUNT**
23 **DESIGNATED BY A RECIPIENT OF EID PROGRAM SERVICES:**

24 **(I) THAT CONSISTS OF EARNED INCOME DEPOSITED BY THE**
25 **RECIPIENT WITH AN UPPER LIMIT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF EARNED INCOME**
26 **RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT IN AN ENROLLMENT YEAR; AND**

27 **(II) FOR WHICH THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE EID**
28 **PROGRAM ON HOW FUNDS MAY BE EXPENDED BY THE RECIPIENT.**

29 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR**
30 **INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE EID PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

31 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

1 **(1) PROVIDE EID PROGRAM SERVICES TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS,**
2 **INCLUDING EXISTING PROGRAM RECIPIENTS, WHO ARE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD;**

3 **(2) FOR INITIAL APPLICATIONS TO RECEIVE EID PROGRAM**
4 **SERVICES, ACCEPT DOCUMENTS TO VERIFY INCOME AND RESOURCES THAT ARE**
5 **DATED UP TO 30 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE THE APPLICATION IS RECEIVED;**

6 **(3) TRANSITION PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR**
7 **THE EID PROGRAM IN A MANNER THAT IS LEAST DISRUPTIVE TO THE RECIPIENT'S**
8 **ACCESS TO SERVICES, INCLUDING ENABLING A TRANSITION TO THE EID PROGRAM**
9 **WITHOUT REQUIRING AN APPLICANT TO BE TERMINATED FROM A PROGRAM**
10 **ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY IN EFFECT AS A PREREQUISITE TO APPLYING FOR EID**
11 **PROGRAM SERVICES;**

12 **(4) ENSURE THAT THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE EID**
13 **PROGRAM, TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND**
14 **MEDICAID SERVICES, PROVIDES MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND PLAIN LANGUAGE**
15 **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS, INCLUDING:**

16 **(I) INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION;**

17 **(II) A DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS THE APPLICANT MUST**
18 **ENCLOSE WITH THE APPLICATION; AND**

19 **(III) NOTICE TO THE APPLICANT OF APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF AN**
20 **APPLICATION; AND**

21 **(5) ESTABLISH A PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION FOR EID PROGRAM**
22 **SERVICES THAT IS BASED SOLELY ON AN APPLICANT'S EARNED AND UNEARNED**
23 **INCOME.**

24 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT:**

25 **(1) LIMIT ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE EID PROGRAM SERVICES BASED**
26 **ON:**

27 **(I) THE EARNED OR UNEARNED INCOME OF THE APPLICANT OR**
28 **THE APPLICANT'S SPOUSE; OR**

29 **(II) ANY ASSETS OR RESOURCES OF THE APPLICANT OR THE**
30 **APPLICANT'S SPOUSE, INCLUDING:**

1 **1. RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS; AND**

2 **2. INDEPENDENCE ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED FOR A**
3 **RECIPIENT OF EID PROGRAM SERVICES;**

4 **(2) ESTABLISH AN UPPER AGE LIMIT ON ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE**
5 **EID PROGRAM SERVICES; OR**

6 **(3) ESTABLISH AS A PREREQUISITE FOR ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE**
7 **EID PROGRAM SERVICES THAT AN APPLICANT APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY**
8 **DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS WHEN THE APPLICANT DOES NOT RECEIVE THE**
9 **BENEFITS AND HAS EARNINGS THAT ARE ABOVE THE SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL**
10 **ACTIVITY LEVEL ESTABLISHED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.**

11 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

12 **(1) MEET WITH A STATE-BASED COALITION OF DISABILITY**
13 **ADVOCATES TWICE A YEAR TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON AND DISCUSS ANY NEEDED**
14 **CHANGES TO THE EID PROGRAM; AND**

15 **(2) REQUEST FEEDBACK FROM THE COALITION BEFORE PROVIDING**
16 **ANY INFORMATION OR MATERIALS ON THE EID PROGRAM TO THE PUBLIC.**

17 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPLY TO THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND**
18 **MEDICAID SERVICES FOR ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE PLAN, WAIVERS, OR**
19 **OTHER FEDERAL APPROVALS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF**
20 **THIS SECTION.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2024.