

HOUSE BILL 1015

J1

6lr2113
CF SB 721

By: Delegates Solomon, Shetty, ~~and Kaufman~~ Kaufman, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, Szeliga, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Developmental Disabilities ~~Administration~~ Services – Expedited Eligibility**
3 **Determinations for Recently Relocated Individuals**
4 **(Ralph’s Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring ~~that~~ the Maryland Department of Health to provide an
6 expedited eligibility determination for developmental disabilities services to certain
7 individuals who ~~were determined to be eligible to receive certain developmental~~
8 ~~disabilities services in another state be eligible to continue to receive those services~~
9 received certain services in another state and relocated in the State; ~~requiring the~~
10 ~~Department to establish an expedited review process for certain individuals~~
11 ~~relocating to the State;~~ authorizing the Department to begin the determination
12 process before an individual establishes residency in the State; and generally
13 relating to eligibility determinations for developmental disabilities services in the
14 State.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 7–404.2
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Health – General

7-404.2.

~~(A) AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS TITLE IF:~~

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

(2) “DEPENDENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES WHO:

(i) RELIES ON SUPPORT FROM AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE; OR

(ii) HAS AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE AND ACTS AS THE INDIVIDUAL’S LEGAL GUARDIAN.

(3) “IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER” MEANS A SPOUSE, A PARENT, AN ADOPTIVE PARENT, A STEPPARENT, A GRANDPARENT, A STEPGRANDPARENT, A SIBLING, A STEPSIBLING, A CHILD, OR A STEPCHILD.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE AN EXPEDITED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES, INCLUDING A DISABILITY DETERMINATION FOR PURPOSES OF ENROLLMENT IN THE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS WAIVER, TO AN INDIVIDUAL IF:

(1) THE INDIVIDUAL:

(i) ~~IS A DEPENDENT OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER;~~

(ii) RECEIVED HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER SERVICES OR SIMILAR SERVICES UNDER A SIMILAR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ANOTHER STATE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 10 YEARS; AND

(iii) MOVED TO THE STATE TO LIVE WITH THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER ON THE DEATH OR INCAPACITATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S CARETAKER IN THE OTHER STATE; AND

(2) THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER ON WHOM THE INDIVIDUAL IS DEPENDENT HAS RESIDED IN THE STATE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 2 YEARS.

1 ~~(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN EXPEDITED PROCESS TO~~
2 ~~DETERMINE WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL MEETS THE CRITERIA UNDER SUBSECTION~~
3 ~~(A) OF THIS SECTION AND IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES UNDER THIS TITLE.~~

4 ~~(2) THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL~~
5 ~~REQUIRE THAT A DETERMINATION BE COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS.~~

6 (C) (1) IN PROVIDING EXPEDITED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS UNDER
7 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

8 (I) PRIORITIZE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW ON
9 RECEIPT;

10 (II) TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY LAW, RELY ON
11 DOCUMENTATION, DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS, ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS
12 FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S PREVIOUS STATE OF RESIDENCE, AND ANY OTHER
13 DOCUMENTATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT RELIES ON WHEN MAKING OTHER
14 DETERMINATIONS UNDER THIS TITLE; AND

15 (III) COMPLETE EACH EXPEDITED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION
16 WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION.

17 (2) IN PROVIDING AN EXPEDITED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION
18 UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT WAIVE
19 SUBSTANTIVE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS TITLE OR
20 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A
21 SERVICE PRIORITY CATEGORY.

22 ~~(D)~~ (D) IF AN INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN DETERMINED UNDER THIS SECTION
23 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES, THE INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE:

24 (1) PLACED IN THE CRISIS RESOLUTION CATEGORY; AND

25 (2) GIVEN ACCESS TO WAIVER SERVICES THROUGH THE MOST
26 APPROPRIATE RESERVE CATEGORY AS DETERMINED BASED ON THE SERVICES THE
27 INDIVIDUAL RECEIVED IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S PREVIOUS STATE OF RESIDENCE.

28 (E) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT
29 YET ESTABLISHED RESIDENCY IN THE STATE WOULD QUALIFY FOR THE EXPEDITED
30 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
31 SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DETERMINE WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL HAS A
32 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AND THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE PRIORITY
33 CATEGORY.

1 ~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DETERMINE, BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL~~
2 ~~ESTABLISHES RESIDENCY IN THE STATE:~~

3 ~~(1) WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES;~~

4 ~~(2) THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE PRIORITY CATEGORY; AND~~

5 ~~(3) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR CRISIS RESOLUTION~~
6 ~~SERVICES.~~

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 ~~October 1, 2026~~ July 1, 2027.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.