

# HOUSE BILL 1445

J1

6lr2253  
CF SB 742

---

By: **Delegates Wolek, Bagnall, Barnes, Cullison, Foley, Forbes, Fraser–Hidalgo, Guyton, Kaufman, Solomon, Spiegel, Stinnett, Vogel, Wims, Woorman, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Health

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Developmental Disabilities**  
3 **Administration – Home– and Community–Based Services Eligibility**  
4 **Determinations**  
5 **(Maryland Protecting People With Disabilities Act)**

6 FOR the purpose of altering the time within which an individual receiving services from  
7 the Developmental Disabilities Administration must appeal a loss of eligibility for  
8 services; establishing requirements related to eligibility determinations and  
9 redeterminations under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring the  
10 Maryland Department of Health to provide certain accessible information to  
11 Program recipients and any other individuals on request; prohibiting the  
12 Department from procedurally disenrolling individuals from the Program or  
13 home– and community–based services solely on a certain basis except under certain  
14 circumstances; requiring the Department, subject to federal approval, to reserve  
15 certain home– and community–based services waiver slots for Program recipients  
16 who lost eligibility under certain circumstances; and generally relating to  
17 determinations of eligibility for home– and community–based services.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – Health – General  
20 Section 7–309(b)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
24 Article – Health – General  
25 Section 15–101(a), (h), and (i)  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Health – General  
3 Section 15–103.9  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 Preamble

7 WHEREAS, The landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C.*  
8 *ex rel. Zimring*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) affirmed that unjustified segregation of individuals  
9 with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of Title II of the federal Americans  
10 with Disabilities Act; and

11 WHEREAS, The *Olmstead* decision established that people with disabilities have  
12 the right to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs and  
13 that states must provide community–based services when such services are appropriate,  
14 desired by the individual, and can be reasonably accommodated; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are vital  
16 members of Maryland’s communities, contributing meaningfully in workplaces, classrooms,  
17 places of worship, neighborhoods, and civic life across the State; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has demonstrated a longstanding commitment  
19 to community inclusion by closing nearly all large public institutions for people with  
20 intellectual and developmental disabilities and investing in supports that allow  
21 Marylanders with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in the communities of their choosing,  
22 with people they choose; and

23 WHEREAS, Despite this progress, barriers remain when administrative  
24 inefficiencies and delays in Medicaid eligibility determinations or redeterminations cause  
25 individuals to lose critical home– and community–based services or remain  
26 institutionalized after they are medically ready for discharge; and

27 WHEREAS, Ensuring timely Medicaid eligibility determinations, preventing  
28 procedural terminations, and protecting continuity of home– and community–based  
29 services coverage are necessary to fulfill the promise of *Olmstead* and uphold Maryland’s  
30 commitment to dignity, inclusion, and equality for all people with disabilities; and

31 WHEREAS, Maryland law requires the Developmental Disabilities Administration  
32 and the Department of Disabilities to compile statewide and regional data from written  
33 plans of habilitation, including barriers to community placement, and to incorporate the  
34 data annually into the State’s *Olmstead* Plan together with recommendations for  
35 addressing those barriers; now, therefore,

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



1           **(4) “PROCEDURAL DISENROLLMENT” MEANS THE TERMINATION OF A**  
2 **PROGRAM RECIPIENT’S ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE SERVICES BASED ON REASONS**  
3 **RELATED TO THE RENEWAL PROCESS AND NOT ON A DETERMINATION OF**  
4 **INELIGIBILITY.**

5           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF 42**  
6 **C.F.R. § 435.912 RELATED TO THE TIMELY DETERMINATION AND**  
7 **REDETERMINATION OF PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDING PROCESSING AN**  
8 **APPLICATION:**

9           **(1) IF A DETERMINATION OF DISABILITY IS NOT REQUIRED, WITHIN**  
10 **45 DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION; AND**

11           **(2) IF A DETERMINATION OF DISABILITY IS REQUIRED, WITHIN 90**  
12 **DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION.**

13           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT EX PARTE REDETERMINATIONS**  
14 **AND USE ALL PROCEDURES AUTHORIZED UNDER 42 C.F.R. § 435.916 TO PREVENT**  
15 **PROCEDURAL DISENROLLMENT OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING HOME- AND**  
16 **COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**

17           **(D) IN ACCORDANCE WITH 42 C.F.R. § 435.905 AND SUBJECT TO**  
18 **SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE, IN**  
19 **ELECTRONIC AND PAPER FORMATS, AND ORALLY AS APPROPRIATE, THE**  
20 **FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO ALL APPLICANTS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS ON**  
21 **REQUEST:**

22           **(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY;**

23           **(2) AVAILABLE PROGRAM SERVICES; AND**

24           **(3) THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPLICANTS AND**  
25 **PROGRAM RECIPIENTS.**

26           **(E) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION**  
27 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IN PLAIN LANGUAGE AND IN A**  
28 **MANNER THAT IS TIMELY AND ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE:**

29           **(i) LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT THROUGH THE PROVISION**  
30 **OF LANGUAGE SERVICES, INCLUDING ORAL INTERPRETATION AND WRITTEN**  
31 **TRANSLATIONS, AT NO COST TO THE INDIVIDUAL; OR**

1                   **(II) LIVING WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF**  
2 **AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES AT NO COST TO THE INDIVIDUAL IN ACCORDANCE**  
3 **WITH THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND § 504 OF THE**  
4 **FEDERAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.**

5                   **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TAGLINES IN NON-ENGLISH**  
6 **LANGUAGES TO INFORM INDIVIDUALS OF:**

7                   **(I) THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION AND**  
8 **LANGUAGE SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

9                   **(II) HOW TO ACCESS THE INFORMATION AND SERVICES.**

10                   **(F) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE INFORMATION**  
11 **NECESSARY TO CONFIRM A PROGRAM RECIPIENT'S ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE TO**  
12 **RECEIVE SERVICES IS INCOMPLETE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTINUE TO**  
13 **PROVIDE THE HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICES**  
14 **UNDER THE PROGRAM UNTIL THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT HAS EXHAUSTED ALL DUE**  
15 **PROCESS RIGHTS AND A FINAL DETERMINATION IS ISSUED.**

16                   **(G) IF A PROGRAM RECIPIENT IS PROCEDURALLY DISENROLLED FROM**  
17 **HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES DUE TO A FAILURE BY THE DEPARTMENT**  
18 **TO REDETERMINE ELIGIBILITY IN A TIMELY MANNER AND THE DELAY IN THE**  
19 **REDETERMINATION WAS NO FAULT OF THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT, THE**  
20 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REINSTATE THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT'S ELIGIBILITY AND THE**  
21 **PROVISION OF HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE**  
22 **ENROLLMENT RETROACTIVELY TO THE DATE OF DISENROLLMENT PENDING THE**  
23 **DEPARTMENT'S COMPLETION OF THE REDETERMINATION PROCESS.**

24                   **(H) SUBJECT TO FEDERAL APPROVAL, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RESERVE**  
25 **A PORTION OF THE PARTICIPANT CAPACITY IN THE HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED**  
26 **SERVICES WAIVER UNDER § 1915(C) OF THE FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY ACT FOR**  
27 **SERVICES NEEDED BY PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
28 **WHO:**

29                   **(1) WERE DISENROLLED FROM THE MARYLAND MEDICAID HOME**  
30 **AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVER PROGRAM ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1,**  
31 **2024;**

32                   **(2) HAVE HAD PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REINSTATED; AND**

33                   **(3) HAVE REQUESTED THE REINSTATEMENT OF WAIVER SERVICES.**

1           **(I) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT PLACE AN INDIVIDUAL ON A WAITING LIST**  
2 **OR REQUIRE A NEW WAIVER APPLICATION IF THE DISENROLLMENT OF THE**  
3 **INDIVIDUAL RESULTED FROM A DELAY OR AN ERROR BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

4           **(J) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT PROCEDURALLY DISENROLL AN**  
5 **INDIVIDUAL FROM THE PROGRAM OR HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**  
6 **SOLELY BASED ON MISSING DOCUMENTATION, A MISSING SIGNATURE, OR**  
7 **INCOMPLETE INFORMATION UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS:**

8                   **(I) EXHAUSTED ALL EX PARTE VERIFICATION PROCESSES**  
9 **REQUIRED UNDER 42 C.F.R. § 435.916;**

10                   **(II) PROVIDED A CLEAR, SPECIFIC, AND ACCESSIBLE WRITTEN**  
11 **NOTICE IDENTIFYING THE EXACT INFORMATION REQUIRED;**

12                   **(III) PROVIDED THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT WITH A REASONABLE**  
13 **OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLY THE INFORMATION; AND**

14                   **(IV) VERIFIED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVED THE NOTICE**  
15 **REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND DOCUMENTED THE**  
16 **VERIFICATION.**

17           **(2) IF THE DEPARTMENT VIOLATES PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
18 **SUBSECTION, A PROGRAM RECIPIENT'S HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**  
19 **SHALL CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.**

20           **(K) IF THE DEPARTMENT DISENROLLS A PROGRAM RECIPIENT IN**  
21 **VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

22                   **(1) AUTOMATICALLY REINSTATE PROGRAM AND HOME- AND**  
23 **COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES RETROACTIVE TO THE DATE OF DISENROLLMENT;**  
24 **AND**

25                   **(2) TREAT THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT AS CONTINUOUSLY ENROLLED.**

26           **(L) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER,**  
27 **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

28                   **(I) SUBMIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE**  
29 **WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A REPORT REGARDING**  
30 **PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHO RECEIVE HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES;**  
31 **AND**

1                   **(II) POST EACH REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS**  
2 **PARAGRAPH ON THE DEPARTMENT’S WEBSITE.**

3                   **(2) THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
4 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

5                   **(I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM RECIPIENTS FOR WHOM**  
6 **A REDETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY WAS INITIATED;**

7                   **(II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM RECIPIENTS FOR WHOM**  
8 **PROGRAM COVERAGE IS RENEWED;**

9                   **(III) OF THE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHOSE ELIGIBILITY IS**  
10 **RENEWED, THE TOTAL NUMBER WHOSE COVERAGE WAS RENEWED BASED ON AN EX**  
11 **PARTE REDETERMINATION;**

12                   **(IV) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHOSE**  
13 **ELIGIBILITY WAS TERMINATED;**

14                   **(V) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHOSE**  
15 **ELIGIBILITY WAS TERMINATED FOR PROCEDURAL REASONS; AND**

16                   **(VI) THE MEAN AND MEDIAN PROCESSING TIMES FOR**  
17 **REDETERMINATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY.**

18                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2026.