

# HOUSE BILL 1593

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CF SB 583

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By: ~~Delegate Guyton~~ Delegates Guyton, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Health, February 26, 2026

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services Manual –~~  
3 ~~Public Comment~~  
4 Community Pathways Waiver – Adoption of Regulations

5 FOR the purpose of requiring ~~the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities to~~  
6 ~~provide notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services~~  
7 ~~Manual; requiring the Deputy Secretary to receive and consider comments on the~~  
8 ~~proposed changes from the public for at least a certain period; prohibiting the Deputy~~  
9 ~~Secretary from adopting the proposed changes until the public comment period has~~  
10 ~~ended; and generally relating to the Self-Directed Services Manual~~ the Secretary of  
11 Health to adopt regulations governing the Community Pathways Waiver, including  
12 regulations pertaining to the delivery of self-directed services; and generally relating  
13 to the Community Pathways Waiver.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Health – General  
16 Section 7-101(a), ~~(b), (f), and (w), and (x)~~  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Health – General

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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.



1 Section 7-409.1  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Health – General**

7 7-101.

8 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 ~~(b) “Administration” means the Developmental Disabilities Administration.~~

10 ~~(f) “Deputy Secretary” means the Deputy Secretary for Developmental~~  
11 ~~Disabilities.~~

12 (w) (1) “Self-directed services” means waiver program services:

13 (i) For which participants or their representatives have  
14 decision-making authority over and take direct responsibility for management of the  
15 services with the assistance of available supports chosen by the participant or the  
16 participant’s representative; and

17 (ii) That are provided in a manner that:

18 1. Furthers the right of individuals and their  
19 representatives, as applicable, to make choices about and direct all aspects of their lives,  
20 including by choosing and controlling the delivery of waiver services, who provides the  
21 services, and how services are provided; and

22 2. Recognizes that all individuals have the capacity to make  
23 choices and may be supported in making choices.

24 (2) “Self-directed services” includes services that:

25 (i) Provide an individual with:

26 1. The decision-making employer authority to recruit, hire,  
27 train, supervise, and dismiss the employees and vendors who furnish the individual’s  
28 services; and

29 2. The budget authority over how funds in a budget are spent  
30 within the total approved annual budget;

1 (ii) Maximize the opportunities of an individual to live as  
 2 independently as possible in the most inclusive community-based setting of the  
 3 individual's choice;

4 (iii) Empower an individual to exercise choice and control over  
 5 needed long-term services and supports; and

6 (iv) Help to maintain and improve the individual's health and quality  
 7 of life in the individual's community.

8 ~~(x) "Services" means residential, day, or other services that provide for~~  
 9 ~~evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care, supervision, assistance, or attention to individuals~~  
 10 ~~with developmental disability and that promote habilitation of these individuals.~~

11 **7-409.1.**

12 ~~(A) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC~~  
 13 ~~BEFORE MAKING CHANGES TO THE SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES MANUAL~~  
 14 ~~DEVELOPED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.~~

15 ~~(B) IF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROPOSES TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE~~  
 16 ~~SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES MANUAL, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHALL RECEIVE~~  
 17 ~~AND CONSIDER COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES FROM THE PUBLIC FOR A~~  
 18 ~~PERIOD OF AT LEAST 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE NOTICE IS PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC~~  
 19 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.~~

20 ~~(C) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MAY NOT ADOPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES~~  
 21 ~~UNTIL AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF~~  
 22 ~~THIS SECTION HAS ENDED. THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS~~  
 23 ~~GOVERNING THE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS WAIVER, INCLUDING REGULATIONS~~  
 24 ~~PERTAINING TO THE DELIVERY OF SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES.~~

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.