

SENATE BILL 583

J1, O3

6lr2583

By: **Senators Jennings, Bailey, Salling, Gallion, Carozza, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services Manual –**
3 **Public Comment**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities to
5 provide notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services
6 Manual; requiring the Deputy Secretary to receive and consider comments on the
7 proposed changes from the public for at least a certain period; prohibiting the Deputy
8 Secretary from adopting the proposed changes until the public comment period has
9 ended; and generally relating to the Self-Directed Services Manual.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 7–101(a), (b), (f), (w), and (x)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 7–409.1
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:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 7–101.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

(ii) That are provided in a manner that:

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

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

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

(i) Provide an individual with:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **7-409.1.**

2 **(A) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**
3 **BEFORE MAKING CHANGES TO THE SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES MANUAL**
4 **DEVELOPED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.**

5 **(B) IF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROPOSES TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE**
6 **SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES MANUAL, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHALL RECEIVE**
7 **AND CONSIDER COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES FROM THE PUBLIC FOR A**
8 **PERIOD OF AT LEAST 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE NOTICE IS PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC**
9 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

10 **(C) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MAY NOT ADOPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES**
11 **UNTIL AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF**
12 **THIS SECTION HAS ENDED.**

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