

SENATE BILL 721

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6lr3060
CF HB 1015

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 **7–404.2.**

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

23 **(1) THE INDIVIDUAL:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) IS A DEPENDENT OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER;**

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

5 **(III) MOVED TO THE STATE TO LIVE WITH THE IMMEDIATE**
6 **FAMILY MEMBER ON THE DEATH OR INCAPACITATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S**
7 **CARETAKER IN THE OTHER STATE; AND**

8 **(2) THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER HAS RESIDED IN THE STATE**
9 **FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 2 YEARS.**

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

13 **(2) THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**
14 **REQUIRE THAT A DETERMINATION BE COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

15 **(C) IF AN INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN DETERMINED UNDER THIS SECTION TO BE**
16 **ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES, THE INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE:**

17 **(1) PLACED IN THE CRISIS RESOLUTION CATEGORY; AND**

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

21 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY DETERMINE, BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL**
22 **ESTABLISHES RESIDENCY IN THE STATE:**

23 **(1) WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES;**

24 **(2) THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE PRIORITY CATEGORY; AND**

25 **(3) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR CRISIS RESOLUTION**
26 **SERVICES.**

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