



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

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GEORGE W. OWINGS III
SECRETARY

Date: March 10, 2020

Bill: Senate Bill 851: Human Services – Department of Disabilities – Accessibility Programs
Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Position: Support

Dear Chair Kelley,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) is pleased to **support** Senate Bill 851 Human Services – Department of Disabilities – Accessibility Programs which transfers the Telecommunications Access of Maryland or TAM program from the Department of Information Technology or DoIT to the Maryland Department of Disabilities or MDOD.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs was created by the State Legislature in 1999 as an executive agency with the mission of assisting veterans, active duty service members, their families and dependents, in securing benefits earned through military service.

The TAM program provides Maryland's veterans captioned telephone solutions and other State-provided equipment for qualifying individuals through the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) program. This is a crucial service for our veterans to ensure they are provided with the most resources possible

The Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs collaborates with MDOD currently through the Veteran Support Specialist program. The move of the TAM program into MDOD would strengthen the partnership opening up new opportunities to collaborate on technology-focused solutions for our veterans.

The MD Department of Veterans Affairs respectfully asks for a favorable report for SB851.