



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**SB 625: Transportation of Disabled Persons – Transportation Network Companies – Employee Requirements and Study**

**March 24, 2022**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **From that perspective, the DD Council supports SB 625 as it provides flexibility to transportation network companies, which increases access to transportation services for people with disabilities.**

**WHAT does this legislation do?**

- Requires that transportation network companies (ex. Uber, Lyft, Zipcar) that contract with the Maryland Transit Administration to provide transit services to people with disabilities conduct an annual background screening of all drivers.
- It exempts transportation network companies from doing a complete criminal history background check through the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository.
- It also now requires the Maryland Transit Administration to study the possibility of expanding transit services for people with disabilities using transportation network companies to provide the transit services.

**WHY is this legislation important?**

- Accessible transportation options for people with disabilities remain one of the greatest barriers to participation in full community life.
- People with disabilities rely on various transportation options to access important resources.
- The flexibility of utilizing a transportation network company for travel can address crucial transportation service gaps for people with disabilities.

The DD Council supports SB 625 as amended by the Senate. It uses more appropriate language and adds the examination of the possibility of further expansion of transit services for people with disabilities. SB 625 is an important step towards increasing comprehensive and accessible transportation options for people with disabilities in Maryland.

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