



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways & Means Committee

HB 1404: Election Law – Curbside Voting – Establishment

March 15, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes 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 HB 1404. It increases access to the fundamental right to vote for people with disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

- HB 1404 requires that local boards of elections allow for curbside voting for people with disabilities, and requires policies and procedures for accessible curbside voting that are well-known to the general public.

WHY is this legislation important?

- Voting is a fundamental right that Maryland's citizens with developmental disabilities want and need.
- The lack of accessible polling locations in Maryland remains a barrier for people with disabilities.
- With more voting options available in the 2020 election, 62% of people with disabilities voted (a six point increase over 2016)¹. Additional methods may increase the number of people with disabilities who vote.

This is another critical step to ensure people with developmental disabilities have the access and opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to vote. For that reason, the DD Council supports **HB 1404**.

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¹ https://smlr.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/Documents/Centers/Program_Disability_Research/FactSheet_Disability_Voter_Turnout_2020.pdf