



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland



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HB907–Public Safety–Out-of-Service Elevators–Repair Contract

Economic Matters Committee

March 1, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

We support HB 907 as it will allow a landlord or landlord's agent to enter into a contract with a licensed elevator contractor, other than the one with whom the landlord currently has a contract, without penalty if a disabled tenant or a tenant who is at least 60 years old resides in the landlord's multidwelling building and the elevator is not working. The right to hire a new elevator contractor without penalty applies if the new contractor can fix the elevator sooner than the existing contractor.

Elevators are lifelines for people with disabilities who cannot use the stairs due to mobility issues or use of a wheelchair. While an elevator is broken, disabled people are confined to their living units, unable to go out to get food, go to work or volunteer, see their family or friends, or worship as they choose. Often, particularly if they live on a higher floor, no one is able to get to the disabled person to bring them needed medication or food. People with disabilities should not be involuntarily confined in their living units because an elevator contractor is unwilling or unable to come out to the building and repair the elevator with all deliberate speed. Rather, the landlord should be able to find a different repair contractor to handle the repair without fear of legal or financial consequences.

The Developmental Disabilities Coalition supports HB 907, so that people with disabilities who depend on working elevators have the greatest opportunity for ongoing access to and from their homes.

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