

EACtestimonyHB870.Senate.pdf

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Position: FAV

Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

House Bill 870: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Memorandum of Understanding

March 23, 2023

Position: Support

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of approximately 40 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports House Bill 870, which would require a memorandum of understanding between the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. EAC members have a long history of representing or working with students with disabilities in special education matters, including older students who are preparing to transition out of the school system.

For the past six months, several EAC members have served on the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (the Commission). One of the Commission's responsibilities was to consider methods for improving the relationship and communication between transition professionals at the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In its interim report, the Commission recommended DORS enter a memorandum of understanding with DDA to "enable DORS to access the necessary medical, psychological, and school documentation of DDA applicants seeking DORS services." The EAC supports this recommendation and agrees that access to medical, psychological, and school documentation will support DORS in better serving consumers.

To this end, the Commission also recommended that a deep dive be conducted into the DORS and DDA documentation requirements to streamline the necessary supporting documentation of services. As one Commission member noted in comments before the last Commission meeting, a formalized data-sharing and partnership process is needed to ensure the timely flow of information between DORS, DDA, and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 870.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Averitt Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, MSED, Education Advocate

Beth Benevides, Howard County Autism Society

Rich Ceruolo, Parent Advocacy Consortium

Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success

Jennifer Engel Fisher, Weinfeld Education Group

Ann Geddes, Maryland Coalition of Families

Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course, LLC

Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate

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Morgan Durand Horvath, M.Ed., Abilities Network
Rosemary Kitzinger and Marjorie Guldan, Bright Futures, LLC
Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland
Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland
Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center
Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism
Jaime Seaton, BGS Law
Kelly Spanoghe, Education Advocate
Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland
Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group
Maureen van Stone, Annie Carver, Tyler Cochran, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute
Liz Zogby, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

Maryland State Senate Testimony March 22 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Wiederlight

Position: FAV

**Maryland State Senate
Finance Committee**

**Written Testimony of Lisa Wiederlight
March 22, 2023**

**In Support of: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities
Administration - Memorandum of Understanding**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill today. I am a member of the Maryland Autism Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs, but first I am the mother of a young adult with autism and co-occurring conditions in Montgomery County.

This bill is important because it will help to reduce gaps in services when a person with a disability leaves high school and adult services begin. In some cases, this can be many months. Just like many of us, people with disabilities, specifically people with autism, (which is currently estimated to be at least 1 of every 44 twelve year-olds in Maryland), need consistency and structure in their lives. Further, peer-reviewed research has shown that people on autism have, on average, four co-occurring conditions which may require accommodations for them to be included in the community. These conditions include gastrointestinal disease, seizure disorders, wandering behaviors, and anxiety/depression. If services are disrupted, this could result in self-injurious behavior, aggressive behavior toward others, and/or worsening anxiety/depression. This bill seems like a very humane and effective way to serve our Marylanders with disabilities.

The December 2022 *Interim Report* from the Commission to Study DORS specifically recommended a memorandum of understanding with DDA that will enable DORS to access the necessary medical, psychological, or school documentation of DDA applicants who are seeking DORS services to expedite the eligibility process by DORS. I respectfully ask that you support this bill without reservation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Melanie Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 870 - Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Memorandum of Understanding - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 870 - Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Memorandum of Understanding. This bill will require that the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) in the State Department of Education and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) in MDH to enter into a memorandum of understanding, the terms of which will include a data sharing agreement for the medical and psychological records of mutual clients in order to expedite decisions regarding eligibility for services.

Maryland's DDA and DORS have a long history of successfully coordinating with one another in order to improve quality and timeliness of services for participants who interact with services from both departments. In 2018, DDA established an MOU with DORS that outlines joint training, collaboration, and engagement between the two departments to ensure people with developmental disabilities have access to Competitive Integrated Employment opportunities in their community.¹

The MOU proposed in HB 870 will address a significant opportunity for improved collaboration between DDA and DORS, and will follow a collaboration model which is already present in some other states. Presently, DDA and DORS applications may require similar or identical pieces of information to make eligibility determinations for service. MDH supports efforts to ensure the compliant and safe sharing of applicable data to expedite the eligibility process and ensure access.

By formalizing and expediting the transfer of client information between MDH and DORS, numerous benefits may be realized by Maryland residents. In particular, Marylanders seeking

¹ Memorandum of Understanding Between Maryland State Department of Education's Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. 21 June 2018.

<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/DDA%20DORS%20MOU%20signed%206-21-18.pdf>

services would receive more efficient access to support on their path to competitive integrated employment within their community.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott".

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

DRMSENATEtestimony2023.HB870.pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Jones

Position: FAV



Empowerment. Integration. Equality.

1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211

Phone: 410-727-6352 | Fax: 410-727-6389

www.DisabilityRightsMD.org

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
HB 870: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities
Administration - Memorandum of Understanding
March 23, 2023
Position: Support

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the protection and advocacy organization for the state of Maryland; the mission of the organization, part of a national network of similar agencies, is to advocate for the legal rights of people with disabilities throughout the state. DRM's work encompasses individual cases and systemic advocacy. DRM has a long history of representing students with disabilities in special education matters, including older students who are preparing to transition out of the school system. DRM is also responsible for advocating on behalf of beneficiaries of social security payments who face barriers to employment.

For the past six months, DRM has served in its P&A capacity on the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (the Commission). One of the Commission's responsibilities was to consider methods for improving the relationship and communication between transition professionals at the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In its interim report, the Commission recommended DORS enter a memorandum of understanding with DDA to "enable DORS to access the necessary medical, psychological, and school documentation of DDA applicants seeking DORS services." DRM supported this recommendation and agrees that access to medical, psychological, and school documentation will support DORS in better serving consumers.

To this end, the Commission also recommended a deep dive be conducted into the DORS and DDA documentation requirements to streamline the necessary supporting documentation of services. As Commission-member, Parents' Place of Maryland noted in their comments before the last Commission meeting, there is a need for a formalized data-sharing and partnership process that ensures the timely flow of information between DORS, DDA, and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

For these reasons, DRM supports House Bill 870.

Please reach out to Megan Jones at meganj@disabilityrightsmd.org 443-228-8655 with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Jones

HB 870 - Senate - Favorable - Del. Guyton.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3793 · 301-858-3793
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793
Michele.Guyton@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 23, 2023

FAVORABLE

**HB870 - Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration –
Memorandum of Understanding**

Dear Madame Chair and Members of Finance Committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 870 that requires a memorandum of understanding between the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the Maryland State Department of Education and the Developmental Disabilities Administration within the Department of Health. This bill was requested by the Workgroup to study DORS that was established last year by the General Assembly and supported by MSDE. This change will allow data sharing between these Departments in order to simplify the process of transferring to adult services for our students with disabilities and expediting decision-making on eligibility for clients served by both Departments.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 870 to help support the work of the stakeholder group.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton 42B

HB870_DD Coalition_Finance_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

Senate Finance Committee

March 23, 2023

**HB 870: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities
Administration – Memorandum of Understanding
Position: Support**



8601 Robert Fulton Dr
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046

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). As such, the DD Coalition supports HB 870.



1500 Union Avenue
Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) is Maryland's vocational rehabilitation program, and receives most of its funding from a grant from the US Department of Education to provide support for people with disabilities to go to work, stay at a job, and prepare for the world of work.

- 7,396 adults (age 25 and older) currently receive employment services from DORS
- 5,589 youth (ages 14-24) currently receive employment services from DORS
- 2,777 people are waiting for these employment servicesⁱ



8835 Columbia 100 Pky
Suite P
Columbia, MD 21044

WHAT does this bill do?

- Requires the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to enter into a MOU with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to share data for the medical and psychological records of people both agencies support.
- Defines "medical and psychological records" as medical documentation, psychological information, school documentation, and any other relevant information.



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

217 E Redwood Street
Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202

WHY is it important?

- **People wait a long time for DORS services.** Data sharing is one method to expedite the eligibility process for DORS programs and services.
- **Improves service delivery.** Streamlining the process improves the amount of time it takes to provide critical services.
- **Improves accountability.** To ensure accountability, communication between the two agencies needs to improve, and information sharing is a start.



7000 Tudsbury Road
Windsor Mill, MD
21244

The requirements of this bill are supported by the DORS Commission created by HB660 (2022), which is focused on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of DORS services and supports. For these reasons, the DD Coalition supports HB 870.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council:
rlondon@md-council.org

ⁱ DORS website, February 20, 2023. < <https://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/about/Pages/numbers.aspx>>

HB870 Testimony revised.pdf

Uploaded by: Rene Averitt-Sanzone

Position: FAV



SENATE FINACNE COMMITTEE
House Bill 870: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities
Administration - Memorandum of Understanding
March 22, 2023
Position: Support

The Parents' Place of MD (PPMD), as Maryland's Parent Training and Health Information Center for the state, serves families who have children and youth with disabilities and special healthcare needs including families who have youth eligible for both Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. PPMD supports House Bill 870, which would require a memorandum of understanding between the cases and systemic advocacy. PPMD has a long history of supporting families with students with disabilities in special education matters, including older students who are preparing to transition out of the school system.

PPMD has served on the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (the Commission). One of the Commission's responsibilities was to consider methods for improving the relationship and communication between transition professionals at the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In its interim report, the Commission recommended DORS enter a memorandum of understanding with DDA to "enable DORS to access the necessary medical, psychological, and school documentation of DDA applicants seeking DORS services." PPMD fully supports this recommendation and agrees that access to medical, psychological, and school documentation will support DORS in better serving consumers.

The transition from school to adult services is very challenging for families so the Commission's recommendation that a deep dive be conducted into the DORS and DDA documentation requirements to streamline the necessary supporting documentation of services would be incredibly beneficial to families and their youth. As one Commission member noted in comments before the last Commission meeting, a formalized data-sharing and partnership process is needed to ensure the timely flow of information between DORS, DDA, and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

For these reasons, The Parents' Place of MD supports House Bill 870.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Averitt-Sanzone
Executive Director