



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**



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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.



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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



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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**

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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.



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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.

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