



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 28, 2023

HB 657: Real Property – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals with Disabilities

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (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. Our vision is that people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together. HB 657 is an important step to ensure more people with disabilities can work and receive the support they need to do so.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Removes income limits for people in the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program, and only applies the asset limit at the time of initial application to the program. .
- Allows EID program participants who become unemployed, through no fault of their own, to maintain their Medicaid coverage for up to one year.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Removes barriers to competitive employment.** People with disabilities want real jobs with real wages, but face various barriers, including the lack of services and support to help them. Medicaid is an important source of coverage for services that support the ability of people with disabilities to work, such as personal assistant services, prescription drugs, and assistive technology.
- **Helps people with disabilities maintain access to these critical services.** The Employed Individuals with Disabilities program (EID) provides medically necessary services and supports to ensure people with disabilities can work.
- **Promotes real jobs with real wages.** By removing income limits, and only applying the asset limit at the time of initial application, people can keep their services while also advancing their careers, getting pay raises, and saving for retirement.

It is critical that people with disabilities have full access to the services and support they need and want to be able to work and thrive in their communities. HB 657 does just that by supporting the ability of working Marylanders with disabilities to access and maintain Medicaid coverage. For these reasons, the Council supports HB 657.

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