



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

HB 261: State Department of Education – Division of Rehabilitation Services – Information Posted on Website

February 22, 2023

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. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) is Maryland's vocational rehabilitation program, and received 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

WHAT does this bill do?

- Requires the Division of Rehabilitation Services to put information on their website about the number of open cases.
- Requires DORS to update the number monthly.

WHY is it important?

- **Promotes transparency.** Data driven decision-making is critical. Policymakers will be able to see how many people are waiting for critical services and take action to address the long wait times.
- **Improves accountability.** To ensure accountability, information must be available to all stakeholders.
- **People wait a long time for DORS services.** This is one method for improving accountability and transparent of the DORS' programs and services.

For all these reasons, the Council supports HB 261.

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