

MICHELE GUYTON
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Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 8, 2023

FAVORABLE

HB1222 - State Department of Education – Division of Rehabilitation Services – Funding and Staffing

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1222 which puts into statute our state funding match for the Department of Rehabilitation Services in MSDE. This request originated with the workgroup to study the Division of Rehabilitation Services in their recent preliminary report and is also being requested by the Maryland State Department of Education. In order for Maryland to receive our full allotment from the federal grant programs for the vocational rehabilitation program, we are required to match funds at 21.3%. The federal match is 78.8%. Maryland is currently contributing only 20% to the program which leaves significant federal funding on the table. Maryland is projected to begin losing \$4,803,500 annually if we do not make our 21.3% match which has a large return on investment by the granting agencies. For every \$1,000 the state does not contribute, we lose \$3,695 in federal funds. I ask for your favorable report on HB 1222 which will improve the performance of the Division of Rehabilitation Services by ensuring that Maryland adequately meets our funding obligations in the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton D42B