



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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### House Appropriations Committee

#### HB 1163: State Department of Education – Division of Rehabilitation Services – Funding

March 5, 2024

**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 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.

- 9,930 adults (age 25 and older) currently receive employment services from DORS
- 12,731 youth (ages 14-24) currently receive employment services from DORS
- 1,998 people are waiting for these employment services<sup>i</sup>

#### **WHAT does this bill do?**

- Allows the Governor to include a General Fund (GF) appropriation for the required state match for the federal funds the Division of Rehabilitation Services receives.

#### **WHY is it important?**

- **Ensures federal funding for employment services in Maryland.** Funding the state match ensures DORS meets the federal match requirements each year.
- **Ensures DORS can provide critical employment services people need and want.** The State needs to adequately provide the general funds to meet the federal match requirement so DORS can focus on meeting the needs of Marylanders.
- **People wait a long time for DORS services.** Ensuring Maryland gets the federal vocational rehabilitation funding each year helps expand training and services in community-based settings, and increases accountability of the DORS programs and services.

For all these reasons, the Council supports HB 1163.

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<sup>i</sup> DORS website, February 14, 2024. < <https://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/about/Pages/numbers.aspx>>