

2-21-2024 House Testimony - Brendan Sailing.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlie Arms

Position: FAV



February 21, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Chair Marc Korman
The Honorable Vice Chair Regina T. Boyce
Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: House Bill 0773: Human Services – Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans
Boating Fund
Favorable Support**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, Delegate Jones and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of Brendan Sailing, my name is Charlie Arms and I am here today in full SUPPORT of HB 0773.

For the past thirty-eight years, Brendan Sailing has been building pathways for self-confidence and personal growth for children with learning differences through individually tailored experiential instruction in sailing. Passage of this bill and its associated funding grants will help Brendan Sailing expand its reach in this specific community of children who often are overlooked for summer camp programs due to their learning differences and unique challenges for outdoor recreation and education.

Brendan Sailing believes sailing is not just a recreational activity, but a transformative experience that builds confidence, independence, social and teamwork skills. Our US Sailing certified instructors are trained in working with youth with Learning Differences such as ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Level

One Autism. Operating out of both Annapolis and St. Mary's College of Maryland, we provide a supportive and inclusive environment where campers can thrive.

At Brendan Sailing, we have a policy that no child is turned away for lack of ability to pay for camp. Scholarships are available and over half our youth attend on scholarships. One hurdle of our program is funding for scholarships. Without adequate funding, we are limited in our ability to provide scholarships to those who need it most. This limits the impact we can make and the number of individuals we can reach. While we actively seek out funding for scholarships through grants and donations, additional funding will enable us to reach more at-risk youth with learning differences in underserved populations that would not otherwise have these opportunities. Our 3:1 student to instructor ratio is vital to providing the attention and focus on the unique learning style of each student. This method is extremely effective and also more expensive than traditional camp structure.

Outdoor recreation and education opportunities are often hard to find for children with learning differences such as autism, anxiety, ADHD and other forms of neurodiversity.. These opportunities are even more rare for overnight camping experiences. With additional support, we can expand our reach and provide more opportunities for at-risk youth to thrive and succeed.

In addition to sailing, campers participate in fun activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding and beach games. We also educate on marine science and environmental conservation, teaching campers the importance of protecting our Maryland waterways. Our instructors are trained in the Brendan Approach, a proven instructional method to reach this population. Brendan Sailing students' newly found confidence, expanded skills and new friendships extend far past their camp timeline. One student remarked once that the skills she learned through Brendan to navigate the waters and be aware of her surroundings and fellow sailors helped her obtain her driver's license and the independence this momentous occasion brings to young people.

Other students have similar comments. One camper remarked "I have friends now for the first time. I text with them throughout the year and can't wait to see them again next summer. Before I spent all my time playing Xbox and drawing by myself. "

Parents also articulate the transformation they see in their youth. "The changes in our son have been nothing short of amazing. This young man, so hesitant and shy, is now engaging with others, starts what he finishes, and has successfully transitioned to colleges. This would not have been possible without the support of Brendan Sailing." – Parent of a 2023 Camper

“Brendan Sailing is a phenomenal program that my grandson attended the summer of 2023 at St Mary’s College. Not only did he learn how to sail, he walked out with much more confidence in himself. The instructors, along with the volunteers, were always working with the campers and engaging them in every aspect. We have attended many camps, but Brendan Sailing tops them all. We hope to go back every year. Thank you for the great experience” ---Maria Hall

“We had a fabulous experience with Brendan Sailing this summer. My daughter was able to thrive here in an environment that was designed for kids just like her. She was pushed out of her comfort zone in just the right ways and then supported by great coaches the whole time. Fabulous experience for her and the whole family.” --- Laura Smith

“This is, hands down, one of the best activities that my grandchildren have ever taken part in, and that is saying a lot! The staff and volunteers are dedicated, kind, and upbeat. They know kids and how to deal with them, moodiness and all! The kids now have a love of sailing that'll stay with them forever. They are confident and genuinely happy when they get to take friends and family out on the boat, all by themselves, at the end of each session! Please, support Brendan sailing, and by all means, send your children!”--Peggy Thompson

Instructors are also amazed at the power this program provides for the youth, as well as themselves.

Jodi Weinbecker, a long-time sailing instructor and facilitator of the Brendan Approach training for instructors, shares her experience teaching at Brendan Sailing the last two years:

After having coached and trained youth sailors from beginners to international competitors - I wish I would have had the opportunity to work with this program earlier in my career. I have always worked with kids with Learning Differences - I just didn’t see the challenges from their perspective - so I never really coached or taught the child as a whole. These kids with learning differences just don’t get opportunities like this!

Sailing teaches independence, team work, multi-tasking, problem solving, dealing with adversity, overcoming fear, math, science, socializing, communicating, being in touch with the natural environment, disconnecting from technology, fear and joy, exhilarating and naturally calming all at the same time.

Unlike any other sport I have ever played - and I have played most - the level of determination, self-confidence and overcoming obstacles that are required to make a sailboat go just does not compare

to any other sport. Watching these kids - who don't typically have great sport experiences, school experiences, or friend experiences—come together as a group and bond is incredibly special to witness. Watching them learn the skills and gain the confidence to take their parents sailing at the end of the camp is truly heartwarming.”

Volunteer and Sailing Instructor Dianne Sullivan, whose nephew has also been through the program, shares the following:

“While I had been well acquainted and helped with the Brendan Sailing program in the past, never did the success and importance of the mission hit closer to home than when my autistic nephew attended the camp three summers ago. Prior to this, my nephew was most comfortable alone and in front of a computer screen. It was magical to see the transformation as he got outside all day every day for a full two weeks, learned skills and outdoor awareness that he had never experienced or thought of previously, accepted that he could be off his electronics and socially interactive without the world ending (I cannot stress how important that is for these kids!), and successfully conquered some fears. He felt empowered!

Other Brendan campers I instructed similarly came to life as they became captains of their own boats -- without full hands-on adult assistance, which is a big change for them; conquered fears of a boat capsizing and mastered the understanding of how wind can fill sails and propels a boat. The campers themselves say how freeing and exciting it is to be out on the water, mastering boat handling, while also having fun! You'd just have to come to Parents' Day at the end of each session to see these students proudly take their parents sailing – it's truly something heartwarming to see!!”

On the Brendan Sailing website, www.brendansailing.org, you can watch a wonderful video from last summer's camps.

For these reasons, Brendan Sailing enthusiastically supports HB 0773 and urges a favorable report from the Committee.

Charlie Arms

Charlie Arms
Past Executive Director

HB_773_Amendment_Reprint

Uploaded by: Dana Jones

Position: FAV

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 773

HOUSE BILL 773

O1, O3

4r0458
CF SB 597

By: **Delegate D. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans**
3 **Boating Fund**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled
5 Veterans Boating Fund; requiring the Department of Disabilities to administer the
6 Fund; establishing the qualifications for certain organizations to receive grants from
7 the Fund; authorizing the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a certain
8 appropriation for the Fund; and generally relating to the Individuals With
9 Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Human Services

12 Section 7-1101 and 7-1102 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 11. Individuals
13 With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund"

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Human Services**

19 **SUBTITLE 11. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND SERVICE-DISABLED**
20 **VETERANS BOATING FUND.**

21 **7-1101.**

22 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
23 **INDICATED.**

2

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 773

1 **(B) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES.**

2 **(C) "FUND" MEANS THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND**
3 **SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS BOATING FUND.**

4 **(D) (1) "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES" MEANS INDIVIDUALS**
5 **CONSIDERED DISABLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH**
6 **DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12102.**

7 **(2) "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES" INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WITH**
8 **LEARNING DISABILITIES.**

9 **(E) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES.**

10 **(F) "SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN" MEANS A VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY**
11 **THAT IS SERVICE-CONNECTED, AS DEFINED IN 38 U.S.C. § 101(16).**

12 **7-1102.**

13 **(A) THERE IS AN INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND**
14 **SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS BOATING FUND.**

15 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE SAILING, BOATING,**
16 **KAYAKING, CANOEING, ~~AND PADDLEBOARDING~~ PADDLEBOARDING, AND SURFING OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
17 **INDIVIDUALS**
18 **WITH DISABILITIES AND SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.**

18 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

19 **(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**
20 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

21 **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**
22 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

23 **(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

24 **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND; AND**

25 **(2) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**
26 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

27 **(F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

3

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 773

1 (1) PROVIDING STATE GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

2 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN
3 ADMINISTERING THE FUND.

4 (G) IN FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
5 GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF
6 \$500,000 TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING THE STATE GRANTS UNDER
7 THIS SECTION.

8 (H) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
9 DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE A GRANT OF NOT MORE THAN \$40,000 IN A FISCAL YEAR
10 TO A GRANTEE TO PROVIDE SAILING, BOATING, KAYAKING, CANOEING, ~~OR~~
11 ~~PADDLEBOARDING~~ PADDLEBOARDING, OR SURFING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
12 DISABILITIES OR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

13 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION
14 ONLY TO A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN GOOD STANDING THAT:

15 (I) IS QUALIFIED UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL
16 REVENUE CODE;

17 (II) HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS,
18 NOTWITHSTANDING A CESSATION OF OPERATIONS DURING A NATIONAL OR PUBLIC
19 HEALTH EMERGENCY ISSUED:

20 1. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER §
21 201, § 202(D), OR § 301 OF THE FEDERAL NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT; OR

22 2. BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
23 SERVICES UNDER THE FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT; AND

24 (III) HAS ENGAGED INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR
25 SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS IN SAILING, BOATING, KAYAKING, CANOEING, ~~OR~~
26 ~~PADDLEBOARDING~~ PADDLEBOARDING, OR SURFING ACTIVITIES ON ~~THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OR ITS~~
27 ~~TRIBUTARIES~~ STATE WATERS AT LEAST 25 TIMES IN EACH OF THE PAST 3 YEARS.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2024.

HB_773_SponserAmendment_953124

Uploaded by: Dana Jones

Position: FAV

HB0773/953124/1

BY: Delegate D. Jones

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 773

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 16, strike “AND PADDLEBOARDING” and substitute “PADDLEBOARDING, AND SURFING”.

On page 3, in lines 10 and 11, strike “OR PADDLEBOARDING” and substitute “PADDLEBOARDING, OR SURFING”; in lines 25 and 26, strike “OR PADDLEBOARDING” and substitute “PADDLEBOARDING, OR SURFING”; and in line 26, strike “THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OR ITS TRIBUTARIES” and substitute “STATE WATERS”.

Testimony Delegate Dana Jones - HB 773.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Jones

Position: FAV

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel
County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 161
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3211 · 301-858-3211
800-492-7122 Ext. 3211
Dana.Jones@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee
In Support of HB 773

Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund
February 21st, 2024

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I come before you today to introduce HB 773, which would establish the Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund. This legislation will increase opportunities for disabled Veterans, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to enjoy accessible boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, and surfing across Maryland.

In District 30A, here in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, we are extremely lucky to be blessed with a number of organizations providing these services. These include Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating, Brendan Sailing, and Patriot Sailing just to name a few. However, Statewide, from Ocean City to small lakes in Prince George's County, disabled Veterans and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities are having life changing experiences with similar organizations.

The therapeutic value of on the water experiences can not be overstated. For disabled Veterans, on the water activities, specifically as a team, can foster teamwork and collaboration that can be difficult for Veterans to find when returning to civilian life. These effects are exacerbated for our disabled Veterans, as they also have to deal with additional struggles in daily life, but the freedom allowed on the water can help restore and empower these Veterans. For these reasons, I'm happy to say this bill has earned support from the Maryland General Assembly's Veterans Caucus.

For intellectually and developmentally disabled people, on the water experiences can also greatly improve their feelings of freedom and self-determination. These opportunities teach new skills,

and push participants into situations that allow them to take control and make decisions for themselves. The impact of this is much farther reaching than during, and briefly after, the experience. They increase feelings of self-confidence and happiness while reducing anxiety and improving mental health.

I am introducing this legislation alongside two amendments that include surfing as an accepted activity category, and expands eligibility to all State waterways. HB 773 will provide the Department of Disabilities another tool to support the lives of disabled Veterans and intellectually and developmentally disabled people in Maryland through therapeutic on the water experiences.

With that, I humbly request a favorable report on HB 773.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones

HB0773_DNR_SUP_ENT_2-21-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Dylan Behler

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 21, 2024

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 773 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Human Services – Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The agency supports the creation of the Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

One the agency’s core objectives is to have diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for Maryland citizens and visitors.

Having a fund to provide grants for providing sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and service-disabled veterans adds support to programs that help citizens experience our State’s great outdoor recreation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

No similar bills have been proposed previously.

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill creates the Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)

The Arc_Fav Testimony_HB773 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Gregory Snyder

Position: FAV



February 21, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Chair Marc Korman
Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 773: Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region in SUPPORT of HB773: Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund. This legislation would provide more opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to enjoy accessible boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding.

At The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we serve over 3,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support people with disabilities to live the lives they choose by creating opportunities, promoting respect and equity, and providing access to services.

Many of the individuals we support have enjoyed sailing through Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating Therapeutic Sailing (CRAB) on the Chesapeake Bay. The experience provides a refreshing chapter in their spring and summer season, and the staff at CRAB has helped them feel more empowered by teaching them new skills and presenting a form of independence. With the establishment of the Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund, more opportunities for accessible sailing and boating will be created for people with disabilities across the state.

We urge the Committee to support this accessible legislation and report it favorably. At The Arc, we are committed to creating more inclusive communities with access to activities that make a difference in the lives of the people we support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathon Rondeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

MGAVC24_HB773.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike Delegate Rogers

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership

DATE: February 19, 2024

RE: **HB773 -Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund**

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB773 -Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund**. This bill was sponsored by Delegate Dana Jones for the purpose of establishing the Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund to provide sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and service-disabled veterans.

The Veterans Caucus mission is to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans in the State.

The Veterans Caucus Legislative Review Board offers and **recommends support and a favorable report of HB773.**

Thank you,

Mike Rogers

Delegate Mike Rogers
House Chair, Veterans Caucus

Final - HB 773 Written Testimony Boating.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Belcastro

Position: FWA



DATE: February 21, 2024

BILL: HB 773: Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Korman,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support with amendments for HB 773: Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

House Bill 773 would establish a grant program within MDOD supporting nonprofit organizations providing various adapted water activities for people with disabilities and service-disabled veterans.

Recreation activities such as boating, sailing, and kayaking should be welcoming for all as they promote physical, social, and emotional well-being. MDOD is thankful to the Delegate for putting this bill forward and for her commitment to promoting the health and wellness of people with disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans.

We support the bill, but suggest the following amendments: (1) Nonprofits offering surfing opportunities for individuals with disabilities be eligible for the grant funding, (2) Remove the mention of "Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries."

These amendments would allow the fund to promote adapted water activities more equitably across the state and beyond the Chesapeake Bay region.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Belcastro, Deputy Secretary, Lisa.Belcastro@maryland.gov, (443) 941-5094.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary

HB 773 - MDVA LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FWA



**Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE
GOVERNOR**

**ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR**

**ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY**

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 773 - Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (“MDVA”) supports House Bill 773 - Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.

The MDVA supports the establishment of this fund to provide sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and service-disabled veterans.

We support the bill, but suggest the following amendments: (1) Nonprofits offering surfing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be eligible for the grant funding, (2) Remove the mention of “Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.”

These amendments would allow the fund to promote adapted water activities more equitably across the state and beyond the Chesapeake Bay region. I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report with amendments on HB 773.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary

HB 773.DD Council.Support With Amendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FWA



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Environment and Transportation Committee

HB 773: Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund

February 21, 2024

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change 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 Council supports HB 773 with the following amendments to ensure the bill reflects the needs of communities across Maryland:

- Adding “Adapted Water Sports Funds” the bill title by replacing “Boating Fund”
- Replacing “BOATING FUND” with “ADAPTED WATER SPORTS FUND” on page 2, line 14
- Adding “SURFING” after “CANOEING” page 2, line 16 and page 3, line 10
- Removing “ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OR ITS TRIBUTARIES AT LEAST 25 TIMES IN EACH OF THE PAST 3 YEARS.” on page 3, line 26-27.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- This bill creates the Individuals With Disabilities And Service–Disabled Veterans Boating Fund under the Maryland Department of Disabilities.
- The money is for grants to fund adapted water sports such as sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding opportunities for people with disabilities including veterans with disabilities. Adapted recreation are activities modified to meet individual needs such as a mobility disability.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Adapted recreation creates opportunity.** Adapted recreation allows people with disabilities to participate in sports and leisure activities with others. This allows everyone to have recreation opportunities regardless of their disability.
- **People with disabilities want inclusion recreation opportunities.** 10.7% of all Marylanders and 22.47% of Marylanders 18 and older are people with disabilities. But only 8 state parks in Maryland have adapted recreational equipment¹. More needs to be done to create recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

This bill is a step in the right direction to promote more opportunities for recreation for people with disabilities. For these reasons, the Council supports HB 773.

Contact: Dr. Stephanie Dolamore, Deputy Director, SDolamore@md-council.org

¹ <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/accessibleactivities.aspx?activity=AdaptiveRecreationEquipment>

HB773_DD Coalition_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FWA



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

House Environment and Transportation Committee

HB 773: Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund

February 21, 2024

Position: Support with Amendments



8601 Robert Fulton Dr
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 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. As such, the DD Coalition supports HB 773 with amendments.



1500 Union Avenue
Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211

WHAT does this legislation do?

- This bill creates the Individuals With Disabilities And Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund under the Maryland Department of Disabilities.
- The money is for grants to fund adapted water sports such as sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding opportunities for people with disabilities including veterans with disabilities. Adapted recreation are activities modified to meet individual needs such as a mobility disability.



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Columbia, MD 21044

WHAT do the proposed amendments do?

Together, all of these amendments expand access and opportunity to adapted water sports for people with disabilities.

- Replaces “Boating Fund” in the title with “Adapted Water Sports Funds.”
- Replaces “Boating Fund” with “Adapted water sports fund” on page 2, line 14.
- Adds “surfing” to the list of adapted water sports on page 2, line 16 and page 3, line 10
- Removes “on the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries at least 25 times in each of the past 3 years on page 3, line 26-27.



Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council

217 E Redwood Street
Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202

WHY is this legislation important?

- **Adapted recreation creates opportunity.** Adapted recreation allows people with disabilities to participate in sports and leisure activities with others. This allows everyone to have recreation opportunities regardless of their disability.
- **People with disabilities want inclusive recreation opportunities.** 10.7% of all Marylanders and 22.47% of Marylanders 18 and older are people with disabilities, but only 8 state parks in Maryland have adapted recreational equipment¹. More needs to be done to create recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.



7000 Tudsbury Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
RLondon@md-council.org

¹ <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/accessibleactivities.aspx?activity=AdaptiveRecreationEquipment>