



DATE: February 7, 2024  
BILL: SB 331: Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland  
COMMITTEE: Finance  
POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Beidle,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) thanks the committee for the opportunity to submit this Letter of Information regarding Senate Bill 331: Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland.

SB 331, establishes a Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland and is charged with evaluating funding for paratransit, identifying service gaps, and exploring the role of public-private partnerships in meeting funding and service gaps.

MDOD has a strong and long-standing relationship with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Through a Memorandum of Understanding with MTA, MDOD houses a Director of Transportation Policy. This individual works in collaboration with MTA to coordinate and improve the delivery of all transportation services, including paratransit, for people with disabilities.

SB 511/HB596 (2023) established the State Coordinating Committee for Health and Human Services Transportation (SCCHHST) under the MTA. This Committee is charged with examining the Statewide transportation needs of elderly individuals and those with disabilities, as well as devising a 5-year plan that sets goals to help transportation-disadvantaged residents of the State access jobs, education and training programs, health care services, and other activities.

MDOD agrees that the issues referenced in SB 331 warrant close review, and as members of the SCCHHST, will work to incorporate them into the 5-year plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this Letter of Information. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Belcastro, Deputy Secretary, [Lisa.Belcastro@maryland.gov](mailto:Lisa.Belcastro@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary