



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**  
CREATING CHANGE · IMPROVING LIVES



**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**SB 256:** Public Safety – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Revisions

**February 6, 2024**

**Position:** Letter of Information

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and The Arc Maryland are statewide advocacy organizations committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

**WHAT** does this legislation do?

- Removes, from statute, the entrance-level police training and every 3-year in-service training requirement about interacting with people with disabilities.
- It also removes other training requirements, but adds them back in another section of the statute. **The training requirement about interacting with people with disabilities is NOT ADDED back in another section.**

**WHY** is this problematic?

- After Ethan Saylor, a man with Down syndrome, died after an altercation with police in a movie theater, the General Assembly created the Ethan Saylor Alliance (Alliance). The legislation focused on the need for increased training for members of law enforcement and other public service employees on the specific, and somewhat specialized needs of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The purpose of the Alliance is to provide increased training for members of law enforcement and other public service entities on specific needs of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- The Police Training and Standards Commission **required training about interacting with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for all entry-level (academy) law enforcement training programs starting in 2015.**
- Recognizing the importance of training about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, **in 2016, the Commission mandated that all police officers receiving the training during in-service training.**
- Beginning **in 2019, the Commission mandated that the training be included in the three year cycle of mandated in-service training topics.**

In order to continue to promote appropriate and effective interaction between law enforcement and people with disabilities, entrance-level police training AND in-service training must continue as it has since 2015 and 2016, respectively. **Therefore, we strongly recommend the following lines NOT be removed:** On page 8, lines 4-9 and lines 16-17.

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