



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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House Appropriations Committee

HB 450: Maryland Transit Administration - Disability Reduced Fare Program - Renewal for  
Permanently Disabled Individuals

February 25, 2025

Position: Support

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. From this perspective, the Council supports HB 450 as a step toward making Maryland a place where everyone can access transportation fairly and equitably.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration automatically renew the Disability Reduced Fare Program (Program) certification for a person who is permanently disabled.
- The program provides a 50% discount to people with disabilities, older adults (age 65+), and Medicare cardholders.
- Currently, the program requires people with long-term disabilities to renew their application every 36 months or be dis-enrolled.

WHY is this legislation important?

- People with Developmental Disabilities (DD) also people with permanent disabilities. This means their disability will not change with time or a particular treatment. For example, a person with Cerebral Palsy will have CP for their whole life.
- The current application process is burdensome for people with developmental disabilities. When people with a long-term disability have to renew their applications, they must have a doctor re-certify they still have a disability. This is an unnecessary process for people with permanent disabilities.
- People with developmental disabilities want and need access to transportation. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics reports that people with disabilities are four times more likely to experience difficulty getting the transportation they need compared to people without disabilities. Keeping the fares low and making renewals automatic helps Marylanders with DD get where they need to go with the Disability Reduced Fare Program.

*While investments in transportation equity are without question needed, including for people with disabilities, the Council believes that the amount, purpose, and timing of such efforts must take into consideration the needs of all Marylanders with disabilities. Funding for this bill should not be offset by limiting essential funding for other critical needs, most immediately the Developmental Disabilities Administration community services that thousands of Marylanders depend upon.*

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