



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Appropriations Committee

HB 912: Institutions of Higher Education - Instructor Training - Accommodations for Students
With Disabilities

March 5, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) 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 912 as a step toward making Maryland a place where everyone can access higher education fairly and equitably.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires institutions of higher education to train any instructor who provides direct instruction to students about the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (504).
- Requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop the model training program.

WHY is this legislation important?

- People with developmental disabilities have the same aspirations after high school, including attending a college or university. However, according to the National Core Indicators, only 3% of people with developmental disabilities enroll in higher education compared to 39% of their peers without disabilities.
- Students with developmental disabilities may not enroll in college because, while accommodations may be available, the administrative burden to get, keep, advocate for supports in college courses falls on the student. Training for instructors on requirements under the ADA and 504 could improve how faculty think about accommodations for students and reduce some of the barriers faced by students with disabilities.

While investments in inclusive higher education are without question needed for people with developmental 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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