



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

HB 1053: Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services

Position: Letter of Information



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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.

WHAT does this bill do?

- States it will amend MD Code, Health - General, § 7-409. Recipients of self-directed services, subsection (a)(4) to specify that a “Parent” may provide a DDA participant with direct services.
- States that it will amend subsection (a)(4)(i) to specify that a DDA participant may choose a “Parent” or “Legal Guardian” to provide direct services if it is the choice of the participant, or their authorized representative and they have a supports broker.
- Only permits parents, family members, or legal guardians to provide the services if the services are authorized to be provided by the parent, another family member, or the legal guardian of the recipient by an administration waiver approved by CMS.

Many DDA participants, both people in self-directed services (SDS) and participants that hire through an agency, rely on family members, including their parents, and legal guardians to provide them with their direct care.

Health-General 7-409(a)(4) already specifies family members, which includes parents and legal guardians, may provide direct services with the same conditions that a participant has a supports broker, and it is the participant or their authorized representative’s choice. This is only one condition relating to family and legal guardian caregivers, but there exists additional conditions and applicable service restrictions.

MD Code, Health - General, § 7-401. Rules and regulations, specifies that the Secretary of Health shall adopt rules and regulations to govern DDA’s services and programs. However, the applicable regulations under COMAR 10.09.26 and COMAR 10.22 have not been fully updated in decades, with some subtitles and chapters that have not been updated since July 26, 1999 (26:15 Md. R. 1148).

Rather, DDA has issued a [SDS manual](#) and [policy](#) that went into effect late 2024 and have already been amended several times. Until comprehensive regulations are implemented, the SDS manual and policy are the resources to find definitions, conditions for services, and applicable services restrictions.

For more information, contact any member of the DD Coalition.