



People on the Go of Maryland

SB382

Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Powered Wheelchairs

Requiring, in order to make repairs to powered wheelchairs, that a certain manufacturer make available certain documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, and tools to a certain independent repair provider or owner of a powered wheelchair, and generally relating to the repair of powered wheelchairs; providing that a violation of the Act constitutes an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice subject to certain enforcement and penalty provisions.

Position: Support

February 4, 2025

Sponsored by Delegate [Aaron M. Kaufman](#)

Assigned to: Economic Matters Committee

Written by Cody Drinkwater

Policy Coordinator - People On the Go of Maryland

Honorable Chairperson, and distinguished members of the Economic Matters Committee:

People On the Go of Maryland (POG) is a statewide self-advocacy organization, run for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD), and our mission is to promote self advocacy throughout the state.

POG respectfully offers this written testimony in support of HB 31. Powered wheelchairs and similar assistive technology helps citizens who require assistive technology to live their best lives. This bill aims to improve the accessibility and affordability of repairs for powered wheelchair users, ensuring they have the right to repair their own devices without being solely dependent on the manufacturers of said devices.

It can often take several months, sometimes years, for specialized wheelchairs to be repaired. Related to this, repairs can be costly, even cost-prohibitive, leaving people with few options for access to a safe and reliable wheelchair. Much of this has to do with wheelchair manufacturers' lack of cooperation and information sharing to repair companies, as well as a lack of transparency regarding costs and alternatives for parts.

HB 31 would require anyone doing business in Maryland who sells and repairs wheelchairs to provide this repair information to consumers and repair companies, and to collaborate with them for more timely, cost-efficient repairs.

Therefore, People on the Go respectfully asks for a favorable report on HB 31. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Cody Drinkwater or Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Cody Drinkwater, Policy Coordinator

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