



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 5, 2025

HB 1244: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment Position: Support with Sponsor Amendments



8601 Robert Fulton Dr
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046



1500 Union Avenue
Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211



8835 Columbia 100 Pky
Suite P
Columbia, MD 21044



Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE · IMPROVING LIVES

217 E Redwood Street
Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202



7000 Tudsbury Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244

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. As such, **we support ensuring DDA's existing Waiver Advisory Council (WAC) has a broader representation of community organizations, and the responsibility to make more recommendations. To make that happen, the following amendments are needed:**

- Add ***The Arc Maryland and Maryland Association of Community Services*** explicitly as members in 7-12B-03.
- Add more to 7-12B-05(A)(2) to ensure the WAC provides advice and makes recommendations to DDA about service delivery and access to services, ***including implementation strategies regarding cost efficiency, flexibility, and system modernization.***
- Clarify that voting members appointed under certain sections are appointed for 2 year terms, and eligible for 2 terms in a row.

WHAT does this bill do?

- Codifies and expands the existing WAC to provide advice and make recommendations to DDA about system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waivers operated by DDA.
- Ensures the WAC includes representatives from statewide organizations that work with and for people with developmental disabilities, as well as people with lived experience who receive Medicaid waiver services in both delivery models – self-directed services and community provider, families, and providers.

WHY is this important?

- **Nothing about us without us!** HB 1244 outlines that the purpose of the WAC is to **foster meaningful engagement and establish a feedback loop with all stakeholders.**
- **Ensures the WAC adheres to person-centered thinking, diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, and evidence-based and data-driven discussion and problem solving.** Almost 20,000 Marylanders rely on the Developmental Disabilities Administration for vital community supports that enable them to live, work, and thrive in their communities. Whether through community providers or self-directed services, people with developmental disabilities and their families rely on DDA-funded services. These services allow people with developmental disabilities to get the support they need and want, and allows their families to continue to work and support themselves.

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