



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

House Judiciary Committee

January 22, 2025

HB 249: Residential Real Property – Local Limits on Summoning Law Enforcement of Emergency Services Position: Support



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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. The DD Coalition supports HB 249.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Prohibits a local jurisdiction from enforcing a law or ordinance that limits a person's ability to call law enforcement or emergency services.

WHY is this legislation important?

- **It strengthens existing law.** In 2023, legislation passed prohibiting landlords from using a lease with provisions limiting a tenant's ability to call law enforcement or emergency services. It prohibited local jurisdictions from passing local laws and ordinances, known as nuisance laws, which impose a penalty or limit the number of calls. **That legislation did not prohibit local jurisdictions from enforcing nuisance laws.**
- **It protects people with disabilities.** People with disabilities are disproportionately impacted under nuisance laws. One study found that at least 25% of nuisance enforcement actions were the result of a disability.¹
- **It further protects people in crisis and people with urgent health care needs.** For people experiencing a behavioral or medical crisis who may have to call law enforcement or emergency services, SB 125 makes sure the county or municipality does not enforce an existing nuisance law.

It is critical that people with disabilities have full access to police and emergency services where they live. This bill closes a gap in existing law to ensure people receive the emergency services they need. For these reasons, the DD Coalition supports HB 249.

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¹ <https://harvardcrcl.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2019/07/54.2-Jarwala-Singh.pdf>