

Committee: House Appropriations

Bill Number: House Bill 1331 - Maryland Department of Health and Department of Human Services - Public Benefits - Eligibility and Prohibitions

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Women's Law Center of Maryland opposes *House Bill 1331- Maryland Department of Health and Department of Human Services – Public Benefits – Eligibility and Prohibitions*. The bill mandates that the Maryland Departments of Health and Human Services enter into data sharing agreements with federal agencies. State agencies have already established interoperability agreements with key governmental agencies to facilitate efficient eligibility determinations for programs such as the Maryland Medicaid Assistance Program and SNAP. However, we are deeply concerned about legislation that mandates specific data sharing arrangements, given credible allegations that federal agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration, have illegally shared confidential, sensitive information with other federal agencies and even outside third party vendors. For this reason, we ask for an unfavorable report.

If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.