



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

### Senate Finance Committee

### HB 226: Department of Disabilities – Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations - Establishment

February 3, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. As such, we support efforts to increase opportunities for Marylanders with and without disabilities to live, learn, work, and play together. HB 226 does just that.

#### WHAT does this legislation do?

- HB 226 lets the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) create one or more independent, non-government foundations to support its programs. There is no cost. MDOD will do this with existing resources, and the resulting foundation will support itself.
- These foundations could raise funds, apply for grants, and enter into partnerships to benefit MDOD programs that support assistive technology, employment, and affordable housing for people with disabilities.

#### WHY is this legislation important?

- **This bill increases access to funding and partnership opportunities for MDOD's critical programs.** Two programs that provide assistive technology for people with disabilities; the Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy to improve policies to help people with disabilities get and keep jobs in State government; and the Affordable Apartments Program that provides affordable, accessible housing units to people with disabilities.
- **More funding and partnerships increase access to the critical support people with disabilities need to live, learn, work, and play in the community.** 24% of Marylanders have a disability.

MDOD's work to increase access and opportunity for Marylanders with disabilities is done with limited State and federal funding. The programs provide critical support to people with disabilities, and the ability to expand them would greatly benefit Marylanders. Given the importance of these programs, and the need of Marylanders with disabilities, this no cost bill makes sense.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, [RLondon@md-council.org](mailto:RLondon@md-council.org)