

**Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**House Bill 58: Transportation - Paratransit Services -**  
**Interjurisdictional Routes**  
**February 5, 2026**  
**Position: Support with Amendments**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the federally-mandated Protection and Advocacy agency of Maryland, charged with defending and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. DRM submits this testimony in support of HB 58, with a proposed amendment. HB 58 would require county and municipal transportation services for people with disabilities and older adults to provide interjurisdictional service connecting riders to specified medical facilities in neighboring counties. DRM welcomes the introduction of this bill as an avenue to address the lack of public transportation connectivity across counties, which is a barrier to community access for many people with disabilities.

People with disabilities and older adults are less likely to drive or have access to a car and are more likely to rely on public transportation. As a result, Marylanders with disabilities often face significant barriers accessing medical care due to limited transportation options. It can be challenging, and sometimes impossible, to coordinate interjurisdictional paratransit transfers to reach a medical provider in the neighboring county. HB 58 would create a pathway for Marylanders with disabilities to safely and reliably attend medical appointments outside their county of residence.

As written, the bill applies only to paratransit but does not explicitly include demand response service, a type of on request, non-fixed-route transportation. Federally required paratransit, which serves people with disabilities within three-quarters of a mile of fixed route service, is included. However, many counties operate demand response service either in addition to fixed route and complementary paratransit, or as the only public transit option. DRM recommends an amendment to include demand response services, helping to expand interjurisdictional transportation options to reach more Marylanders who rely on these essential services.



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DRM hopes this legislation will pave the way for more interjurisdictional public transportation options for people with disabilities beyond visits to medical appointments so people without cars can be more connected with their communities.

**For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 58 with the proposed amendment.** Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Daria Pugh, Attorney, Disability Rights Maryland, at (443) 692-2487 or [DariaP@DisabilityRightsMD.org](mailto:DariaP@DisabilityRightsMD.org).