



# MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

## House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 5, 2026

### HB 58: Transportation – Paratransit Services – Interjurisdictional Routes

Position: Support with Amendment



The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports HB 58 with the following amendment to remove outdated language:

- Change all references to “handicapped person” to **disabled person, or person with a disability.**



Reliable and effective transportation is crucial for people with disabilities to participate in various aspects of daily life. The availability and accessibility of public transportation continues to serve as a significant barrier for people with disabilities to access and participate in employment, education, healthcare, and other community and social activities.



#### **WHAT does this legislation do?**

- Requires counties to include a plan that provides transportation for older adults and people with disabilities across county lines and to certain facilities in those counties in their application for funding to the Department of Transportation.

#### **WHY is this legislation important?**

- People with disabilities rely on affordable, accessible public transportation to go grocery shopping, attend medical appointments, to socialize, and to spend time with family. Being able to move easily around our neighborhoods, cities, and towns is crucial to a high quality of life.
- Accessing healthcare is already hard enough. Requiring counties to plan for interjurisdictional transportation helps people see the medical professionals they want.



The DD Coalition supports HB 58 and the amendment to remove outdated language as a step to increase access for people with disabilities in Maryland.



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