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SB0022: Department of Disabilities –
Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations – Establishment
Senate Finance Committee
January 28, 2026
Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is a statewide training, support, and advocacy organization that is dedicated to advancing and preserving the rights and quality of lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

This bill modernizes the charter of the Maryland Department of Disabilities to ensure the scope of the work of the Department is properly acknowledged, and creates a pathway for financial sustainment for the Department. Among its many valuable programs, the Department operates a highly successful and necessary accessible and affordable housing program for people with disabilities, and also provides support and assistance to thousands of Marylanders to access technology devices to enhance their independence to live, learn, work, and recreate in their communities. All of their programs are vital for people in Maryland with disabilities, and a model for other states.

With Federal policy and funding volatility, initiatives and programs designed to support people with disabilities, and safety net services and supports have been repeatedly threatened. It is therefore necessary to consider how we may build internal systems, such as the creation of affiliated foundations, to secure additional financial resources, and ultimately ensure outside pressures do not disrupt the vital services and supports needed by people with disabilities.

We appreciate the Maryland Department of Disabilities for all they do, and in particular, our beloved Secretary of the Department for her devotion to equity and access for all people.

We respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB0022.

Ande Kolp, Executive Director
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