



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

Senate Finance Committee

February 24, 2026

**SB 583: Developmental Disabilities Administration – Self-Directed Services Manual –
Public Comment**

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 SB 583 with the following amendment to make sure all people with developmental disabilities, families, and advocates have the opportunity to comment on policies, procedures, and guidance that will affect their services.



- Move the requirement to Health-General §7-401 (C), and add language that **any policies, procedures, and guidance, including the Self-Directed Services Manual...**
- ADD: **(D) Any proposed changes to policy, procedure, and guidance, including the Self-Directed Services Manual shall be described in plain language.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to provide 90 day notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services Manual, and directs the Deputy Secretary not to adopt the changes until after the public comment period has concluded. **The amendment broadens it to include all DDA policies and procedures.**



WHY is this legislation important?

- DDA does not currently have to provide notice to the public before making changes to policies, procedures, and guidance.
- There have been many changes to documents over the past few years. Often people with disabilities, families, providers, and staff do not have the opportunity to express how changes might impact services and supports, or enough time to adapt to changes.



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WHY are amendments needed?

- Notice and opportunity to comment should be available for all changes to policy, procedure, and guidance regardless of the model a person uses to receive their DDA services.
- Plain language benefits everyone. It makes the information easier to understand the first time someone reads it, and makes it easier to translate.
- Policies and guidance shape day-to-day services and supports, and meaningful public input leads to stronger, more workable policy.



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