



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [mota-members.com](http://mota-members.com)

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 721</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Developmental Disabilities Administration - Services - Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph's Act)</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 3, 2026</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 721 - Developmental Disabilities Administration - Services - Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph's Act). This bill requires the Department of Health to grant expedited eligibility for developmental disability services to certain individuals who move to Maryland after their out-of-state caregiver dies or becomes incapacitated. It applies to dependents who received home- and community-based waiver services in another state for at least 10 years and are moving to live with a Maryland family member who has lived in the state for at least two years. The bill mandates a 30-day eligibility determination, places qualifying individuals in the crisis resolution category, and allows the state to begin reviewing eligibility before the person officially establishes Maryland residency.

Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) support this bill because it helps prevent gaps in services for individuals with developmental disabilities who rely on consistent supports to function safely and independently. When services are interrupted, especially after the death or incapacity of a caregiver, clients can lose critical daily living, mobility, communication, and community participation supports that OTPs help provide. By expediting eligibility and ensuring continuity of home- and community-based services, the bill promotes stability, functional independence, and better long-term outcomes which are core goals of occupational therapy practice.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).