



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
MARYLAND

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From: Ronza Othman, President
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To: Senate Finance Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Finance Committee to give a favorable report to SB0199, which establishes a program, operated by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, that would enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and bring companions to assist them in boating activities.

Many disabled people cannot participate in these programs because they have no transportation or they need assistance in the activities of boating. This bill will fix that problem by allowing a companion to accompany them. The Department of Disabilities will administer the fund for companions. This department has the experience and knowledge to handle questions that may arise and to ensure that the people requesting the fund are legitimate operators.

Please vote in favor of SB0199 and give veterans and other disabled people the opportunity to take advantage of valuable experiences. For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB0199. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.