



**BILL: HB 1462**  
**POSITION: INFO – Letter of Information**  
**COMMITTEE: Government, Labor, and Elections**  
**DATE: February 27, 2026**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Maryland Department of Disabilities  
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300, Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is submitting this letter of concern for **HB 1462, Department of Social and Economic Mobility - Individuals with Disabilities**. This legislation adds the word “Disability” to the title of the Office of Minority, Small, and Women Business Affairs (OSBA) within the Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM) and adds the phrase “individuals with disabilities” into some of OSBA’s activities.

MDOD was created in 2004 as a cross-disability, Cabinet-level department to, among other activities:

- advise and represent the Governor on matters affecting the rights and interests of individuals with disabilities; and
- to assist individuals with disabilities in the communities in which they live and work.

HB 1462 adds the phrase “individuals with disabilities” into several paragraphs under Maryland State Government Article § 9-4117 (on page 11 at lines 18, 21-22, and 26 of the bill text). It is unclear from HB 1462 in what context OSBA is supposed to be involved in matters affecting individuals with disabilities. As a result, this legislation appears to mandate that OSBA must now also:

- advise and represent the Governor on matters affecting the rights and interests of individuals with disabilities; and
- assist individuals with disabilities in the communities in which they live and work.

MDOD and DoSEM currently enjoy a strong working relationship. During the 2025 session, at the same time the General Assembly was creating DoSEM, it also passed the Maryland Model Employer Act (Acts of 2025, Ch. 1). The Maryland Model Employer Act created the Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy (ODEAP) within MDOD to promote the hiring

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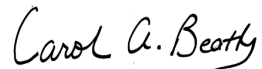
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and retention of people with disabilities in competitive, integrated employment in State government and the private sector. ODEAP's work complements OSBA's charge to support small businesses and business ownership. Secretary Simmons of DoSEM serves on the ODEAP advisory board.

MDOD believes it is important for overall government efficiency, effectiveness and accountability that MDOD and DoSEM retain clear statutory purposes that do not engender duplication or confusion of efforts. Thank you for reviewing our concerns.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Beatty  
Secretary, Department of Disabilities

