



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee:	House Health Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 1015
Title:	Developmental Disabilities Administration - Services - Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph's Act)
Hearing Date:	February 24, 2026
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports House Bill 1015- Developmental Disabilities Administration - Services - Eligibility for Recently Relocated Individuals (Ralph's Act). This bill would require the state to grant Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) eligibility to certain individuals with developmental disabilities who recently moved to Maryland after losing a caregiver. It applies to dependents who previously received long-term home- and community-based services in another state and have an immediate family member who has lived in Maryland for at least two years. The bill also creates a 30-day expedited review process and places eligible individuals in the crisis resolution category to help ensure continuity of services.

Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) support the bill because it helps ensure continuity of care for individuals with developmental disabilities who rely on consistent, structured services to maintain daily living skills, independence, and safety. Sudden gaps in services after a caregiver's death can lead to functional decline, mental health challenges, and increased crisis situations—outcomes OTPs work to prevent. MOTA supports the bill's intent to expedite eligibility and access to crisis services, better enabling OTPs to continue providing early intervention and client-centered care.

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