



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall  
Chair, House Health Committee  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: House Bill 1117 - Elopement Response Devices - Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program Coverage and Provision Under State Programs - Letter of Concern**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of concern for House Bill (HB) 1117 - Elopement Response Devices - Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program Coverage and Provision Under State Programs. Effective in October 2026, HB 1117 would require the Department to cover devices for prevention or response to elopement, including window and door sensors, devices, and monitoring via GPS.

The Department anticipates a significant fiscal impact of \$11,505,499 total funds (TF) (\$5,752,749 federal funds (FF)/\$5,752,749 general funds (GF)) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, with increases expected in subsequent years. The Department estimates that at least 16,072 participants would be eligible for these services based on diagnosis with autism, Alzheimer's, dementia, or general wandering diagnosis. Additionally, in FY 2025, 30,220 individuals were enrolled in home- and community-based (HCBS) waivers. While the HCBS waivers cover environmental modifications in certain circumstances, related devices must be directly tied to an Activity of Daily Living (ADL). As a result, the Department assumes that existing utilization is limited and that there will also be increased use for HCBS. Assuming 80% uptake among non-waiver participants and 15% among waiver users, the Department estimates 17,391 individuals would use elopement devices. The actual number of participants at risk for elopement and eligible to receive these devices may be higher.

Based on research of available products, the Department assumed it would cost \$848 per person per year. This includes device cost (\$252), annual ongoing monitoring costs (\$496), and costs of window and door sensors (\$100). The costs associated with providing devices and recurring subscription payments would be \$11,505,499 TF (\$5,752,749 FF/\$5,752,749 GF) in FY2027, with increases in subsequent years due to inflation.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at [meghan.lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:meghan.lynch@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.  
Secretary of Health