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*Deputy Secretary*

## **HOUSE BILL 1117: Elopement Response Devices - Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program Coverage and Provision Under State Programs**

**DATE: March 13, 2026**

**POSITION: Letter of Information**

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** HB 1117 seeks to require health insurance plans to cover the cost of elopement response devices for individuals with cognitive, developmental or neurological conditions that leave them unable to safely leave an area and return without assistance.

**EXPLANATION:** According to our consultant's data warehouse, the State currently covers approximately 2,100 individuals with conditions that could potentially meet this criteria (including members with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, Alzheimer's, and dementia).

The cost of elopement response devices typically ranges from \$20 to \$350 upfront with monthly monitoring fees of \$25 to \$70 per month.

As such, if HB 1117 becomes law, the State could potentially see additional costs ranging from \$300,000 to \$2 million, depending on how many individuals are deemed eligible for elopement response device coverage, how many individuals seek out coverage, and the type of device(s) chosen for them.

Given forecasted out-year deficits and significant uncertainty about the federal budget and policy changes, it would be challenging for the State to manage this increase in spending. This challenge is compounded by major, unforeseen changes in federal policy and other ongoing budgetary pressures. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) now forecasts significant shortfalls beginning in Fiscal Year 2027 and escalating into Fiscal Year 2028.

**For additional information, contact  
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