



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Bill Title: Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing -
Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual
Disabilities

Bill Number(s): HB0310/SB0268

Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 23, 2026

Submitted by: Director Jeremy Browning on behalf of
the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

To:

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Hon. William C. Smith, Chair
The Hon. J. Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair

House Judiciary Committee

The Hon. J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
The Hon. Debra Davis, Vice Chair

Testimony on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs:

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs, created by the Maryland General Assembly, works to serve LGBTQIA+ Marylanders by galvanizing community voices, researching and addressing challenges, and advocating for policies that advance equity and inclusion. The Commission envisions a Maryland where all LGBTQIA+ people can live full and authentic lives. As a vital resource, the Commission collaborates with public officials, agencies, and community partners to ensure the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ Marylanders are protected and respected.

The Commission supports SB268/HB310, which establishes clinical screening and safeguards to limit the use of restrictive housing for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities. People with disabilities face increased vulnerability in correctional settings, and prolonged isolation has been widely documented to cause significant psychological and physical harm.

Many individuals hold multiple intersecting identities. LGBTQIA+ people are represented within the population of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and may face compounded risks of victimization, isolation, and mental health challenges while incarcerated. Policies that reduce the use of restrictive housing and require clinical assessment help ensure that safety responses are appropriate, individualized, and grounded in health and behavioral needs rather than punitive isolation.

By strengthening protections for a highly vulnerable population and promoting more appropriate clinical decision-making, SB268/HB310 supports safer, more humane correctional environments for all Marylanders, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.

For these reasons, the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs respectfully urges a favorable report on SB268/HB310.