

SB796 / HB984 - Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) - Program Changes and Required Reports

Background

25,000 Marylanders with developmental disabilities rely on DDA supports and services to live and work in their communities.

The DDA is moving forward with major systems change that will have an impact on all aspects of community supports, including service definitions, funding, person centered planning, billing and payment, and regulations.

While many of the proposed changes are positive, the ambitious timeline for the systems transformation has generated concerns.

What The Bill Does

To address the concerns, Senator Guy Guzzone and Delegate Bonnie Cullison have introduced legislation that:

- Delays implementation of the new service definitions and LTSS to July 1, 2021;
- Requires DDA to ensure that people and providers are not adversely impacted;
- Ensures that people who take action within 30 days to appeal a loss of Medicaid eligibility, maintain their services during the appeal process; and
- Requires a number of reports from DDA to the General Assembly to ensure that the system, rates, communication, back up plans and training are all in place in order to facilitate a smooth transition in which neither people with developmental disabilities nor providers are hurt.

Why the Bill is Important

Community Services are at Risk: The 25,000 people who rely on DDA-funded services to live and work in their communities need a stable transition of the \$1.3 billion system transformation that is underway.

Implementation Problems Have Been Identified: Stakeholders have identified multiple issues related to the proposed new rate system, new payment system, and new service definitions. Additionally, DDA has engaged in a small pilot to test the new system (LTSS) for all of the administrative, planning and financial functions, and the pilot has raised numerous concerns that must be addressed in order for a smooth system transition to occur.