

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

APRIL 23, 2014



Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council

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HB 428

CHILDREN - MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM - ELIGIBILITY

- Codifies the extended IFSP option into law
- Early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers until the beginning of the school year following a child's 4th birthday.
- **PASSED**

HB 461 - STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Amendments added the following members:
 - DD Council
 - Maryland Council for American Private Education
 - Maryland Association for the Boards of Ed
 - Home Visiting Alliance
 - Representative who advocates for homeless children
 - MSCCA, MSFCCA, MSACCA, MDAEYC
- Amendment to add an assessment about the availability of high quality early education and development programs that support children with and without disabilities together.
- **PASSED**

SB 418/HB 556 - DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION - LOW INTENSITY SUPPORT SERVICES - FUNDING

- Changed the annual cap per individual from \$3000 to \$2000
- The DD Council convened a LISS Stakeholder Workgroup. This was one of the recommendations which DDA accepted.
- Over 500 additional people could potentially be served each year by lowering the cap from \$3000 per year per person to \$2000.*
- **PASSED**

* Based on data from DDA

HB 798/SB 701

EDUCATION - STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES - HABILITATIVE SERVICE INFORMATION

- Requires a local school system to provide to the parents of a child with a disability verbal and written information about access to habilitative services at specified times.
- MIA's Parents' Guide to Habilitative Services
- **PASSED**

SB 654 - HEALTH - DOWN SYNDROME - REQUIRED INFORMATION

- DHMH is required to provide information to health care providers that provide prenatal and post-natal care to families that get a prenatal test result for DS or have a child with DS
- Information will address physical, developmental, educational and psychosocial outcomes, life expectancy, clinical course and intellectual and functional development and treatment options for individuals with down syndrome AND contact information for support programs and services.
- **PASSED**

WAIVERS

- SB 721 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Services for Children with Down Syndrome (Micah's Law)
 - **Failed – No Committee Vote**
- HB 1497 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Services for Children with Prader-Willi Syndrome
 - **Failed – No Committee Vote**

RELATED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF, DEAFBLIND

- **SB 20 – Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Name Change – FAILED**
 - Would have changed the name to the Office of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind
- **SB 103 – Public Health Programs for Children – Renaming and Modernization – PASSED**
 - Changed the name of Program for Hearing-Impaired Infants to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
- **HB 653 – Education – Deaf Culture Digital Library – PASSED**
 - Requires the Division of Library Development and Services in the MSDE to establish the Deaf Culture Digital Library

RELATED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE

- **HB 1405 – Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Establishment of a Sickle Cell Disease Outreach Program – FAILED**
 - Would have required the DHMH to establish a sickle cell outreach program and include \$250,000 in the state budget for the program

RELATED TO NEWBORN SCREENING

- **SB 433/HB 111 – Public Health – Newborn Screening Program – Lysosomal Storage Disorders – FAILED**
- **HB 153 – Health – Newborn Screening Program – Krabbe Leukodystrophy - FAILED**

RELATED TO CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

- **SB 622/HB 1233 – Health Insurance – Step Therapy or Fail – First Protocol – PASSED**
 - Requires the MD Health Care Commission to work with payors and providers to attain benchmarks, including a process for overriding a payor's step therapy or fail-first protocol.
- **SB 874/HB 761 – Health Insurance – Specialty Drugs**
 - Prohibits certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from imposing a copayment or coinsurance requirement on a covered specialty drug (used by people with “complex or chronic medical conditions and/or “rare medical conditions” that exceeds \$150.

HB 295: MARYLAND MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2014

- Beginning in 2015, this bill raises Maryland's minimum wage incrementally until it reaches \$10.10/hour in 2018.
- Mandates a 3.5% rate increase annually for DDA community services for fiscal years 2016-2019. (Over \$140 million for 4 fiscal years)
- HB 1238 includes provisions to ensure that service providers do, indeed, increase wages in a manner that continues to keep direct support professional wages ahead of the State's minimum.
- **PASSED**

HB 1238: DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION - PAYMENT OF PROVIDERS

- Ensures that a portion of the 3.5% increase stipulated in HB 295 goes to direct support staff wages so they remain proportionately higher than the State's minimum wage.
- Requires DDA to conduct an independent cost-driven, rate-setting study to set provider rates for community-based services.
- **PASSED**