



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

SB 636:

Maryland Department of Health – Waiver Programs – Waitlist Reduction (End the Wait Act)

WHAT does this bill do?

SB 636 requires the Maryland Department of Health to develop a plan to reduce the waiting list for each of its waiver programs by 50%. The plan is due by January 2023. It also requires the Governor to include enough funding in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to reduce the waiting lists by 50%.

WHY is this bill important?

- Maryland has several different Medicaid waiver programs that provide community supports to people who need them.
- Medicaid waivers allow people to receive the services they need in the community instead of an institutional setting, like a hospital or nursing home.
- There are long waits (many years) from the date an individual gets on a waiting list for waiver services until they are able to receive the service from the state. For example:
 - There are currently 3,694 people on the waiting list for DDA services. Those people need services now. It does not include people on the DDA “future request” list. The “future request” list is for people who may not need services or supports now, but may need them in the future.
 - The Autism Waiver Registry is not a waiting list, but children and young adults on the registry are waiting for a turn to be determined eligible to receive autism waiver services. In October 2021, there were 6,221 children with autism and their families on the Autism Waiver Registry.
- This bill is important so the wait can end for people with disabilities and their families. Too many people are waiting for the critical services and supports they need and want.

For more information, please contact:

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