



Empowerment. Integration. Equality.

1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211

Phone: 410-727-6352 | Fax: 410-727-6389

www.DisabilityRightsMD.org

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

February 1, 2022

HB 229 – Employment Standards and Conditions – Definition of Employer

Position: SUPPORT

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the Protection & Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to increase opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities to be part of their communities by advocating for economic justice through eliminating and reducing barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

DRM supports HB 299. In 2016, Maryland took a bold step to eliminate the legal exploitation of the labor of people with disabilities by phasing out sheltered workshops and subminimum wage employers. People with disabilities now have the right to participate in work as equals with their non-disabled peers, but the reality is that people with disabilities face on-going challenges to accessing jobs and frequently utilize staffing services, or temporary employment agencies to secure employment. HB 299 prevents the exploitation of labor by people with disabilities by clarifying that Maryland follows national best practices by recognizing that employees can have more than one employer in subcontractor, temporary employment, or other outsourced work.

For these reasons DRM urges a favorable report on **HB 299**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at davidp@disabilityrightsmd.org or by phone at 410-727-6352, ext. 2500.