



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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House Environment and Transportation Committee

**HB 726: Transportation of Disabled Persons – Transportation Network Companies – Employee Requirements**

**February 17, 2022**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **From that perspective, the DD Council supports HB 726 as it provides flexibility to transportation network companies, which increases access to transportation services for people with disabilities.**

### **WHAT does this legislation do?**

- This bill requires that transportation network companies (ex. Uber, Lyft, Zipcar) that contract with the Maryland Transit Administration to serve people with disabilities to conduct an annual background screening of all drivers.
- It also exempts transportation network companies from doing a complete criminal history background check through the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

### **WHY is this legislation important?**

- Accessible transportation options for people with disabilities remain one of the greatest barriers to participation in full community life.
- People with disabilities rely on various transportation options to access important resources, such as: urgent health services, food and other groceries, employment, and social and educational advancement opportunities.
- The flexibility of utilizing a transportation network company for travel can address crucial transportation service gaps for people with disabilities.

The DD Council supports HB 726 because it is a step towards increasing comprehensive and accessible transportation options for people with disabilities in Maryland.

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