



Senate Finance Committee

HB1143: Emergency Medical Services – Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction
Commission and Standardized Protocols – Establishment

March 28, 2024

Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is a statewide organization that works to protect and advance the rights and quality of life of people with developmental disabilities. This bill would establish the Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission in the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems to enhance the overall effectiveness and responsiveness of emergency medical services; and require the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, with the advice of the Commission, and in consultation with certain entities, to develop certain standardized operational protocols and establish a system for monitoring certain emergency department performance.

We believe this bill is an excellent alternative to HB 784 that was offered this session. We do not believe HB784 will get us to the desired outcome of developing a plan to resolve our ER Wait Time crisis, but HB 1143 will.

- The Commission offered through HB1143 has nimble, limited and representative membership.
- The Commission established under HB 1143 would focus clearly on Reductions of Emergency Department Wait Times as well as the hospital environment and capacity issues to contribute to extended ER Wait times.

For these reasons, we encourage a favorable report on HB 1143. For more information, please contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director, The Arc Maryland akolp@thearcmd.org