



House Health and Government Operations Committee
HB0822: Maryland Medical Assistance Program- Employed Individuals with
Disabilities
March 6, 2024
Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We support HB0822 amends the Employed Individuals with Disabilities program.

The Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program extends Medical Assistance health benefits to working Marylanders with disabilities. This program is also known as the "Medicaid Buy-In" program. It encourages people to work while being able to keep their health benefits for a small fee. A person participating in the EID program can make more money or have more resources in this program than other Medicaid programs in Maryland.

A person enrolled in the EID program can access health services that include but are not limited to:

- Inpatient and outpatient care
- Mental health services
- Physician and clinic visits
- Prescription drugs
- Personal care services at the home and work place.

For certain individuals, enrollment is free. Others may need to pay a fee ranging from about \$25 -55/month to maintain enrollment in the program. The fee is based on income.

HB 822 eliminates the upper age limit for the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program. When the program was first created, it may have been that not many people continued to work beyond the age of 65. As the years have gone by, however, more and more people are choosing to remain in the workforce. It is apparent the age restriction must be eliminated to encourage people, who want to work, to be able to continue to be active and contributing members of their communities.

HB 822 also eliminates the marriage “penalty” of those who are married having to pay a higher fee: payments into the program are based on household enrollee income, not individual income for married adults.

We believe these changes will help Marylanders with IDD continue to work in gainful careers without jeopardizing their health coverage. We urge favorable report on HB 822.

For more information, please contact:

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