



DD Policy and Legislation Special Meeting **March**

3/18/2024

Time: 7pm

New Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84601646738?pwd=AbbKZpUTyOUad55wGNF9iwbOvwmWvs.1>

Phone Call-In: +13017158592,,84601646738# US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 846 0164 6738

Passcode: 528675

7pm	Gathering
	Discussion of Bill SB790, EID and Motion to Move Forward to Full IDDC Commission.

Meeting Accessibility Notice: Sign language interpreter services and other auxiliary aids or services will be provided upon request with as much advance notice as possible, preferably at least three (3) full business days before the meeting/event. To request any other reasonable accommodation or to advise us of any dietary considerations (for in-person meetings), please send a request to Ahmna.Khan@montgomerycountymd.gov. Taking these steps will help us have sufficient time to best meet your needs.

DRAFT

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

To: Members of the Montgomery County State Delegation

From: Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disability Commission

RE: Senate 790, Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Employed Individuals with Disabilities.

Position: Support with Recommendations

The Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC) under local Enabling Legislation consists of people with developmental disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocacy organizations. Prescribed duties include advocating at the state level to advance the needs of people with IDD.

SB790 is vital to the state and county public policy to promote the employment of people with disabilities. Significant state and local resources are allocated every year to support people to become employed, which then puts the employed person at risk of losing their Medicaid health insurance as well as Medicaid home and community-based supports (HCBS), based on Medicaid income test requirements. The EID provides an effective way to achieve what people with disabilities need, namely, employment, health insurance, and community-based services. Indeed, the Maryland Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Administration has established Maryland as an Employment First state for people with disabilities.

SB790 removes the age cap so that people 65 years and older are eligible for EID eligibility, and reduces the premiums paid to enroll in the program by ending the marriage penalty.

The EID program is under-utilized, complicated, and not well known across the state. Access and the application process is challenging and long. More initiatives for public awareness, application assistance, public and equity outreach are essential to meet the policy goals of employment first for people with disabilities

Therefore, the IDDC recommends:

1. Establish provisions of robust public awareness and public outreach in keeping with the State Employment First mission as well as equity.
2. That local and state agencies have EID trained staff to assist people to understand and apply for the EID program
3. That the EID State-Based Coalition of disability advocates includes an appropriate number of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration. The Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission strongly supports SB790 and request the Maryland General Assembly Elected Officials vote in favor of the Bill.

Sincerely;

Michael Greenberg

Chair

IDDC