

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1593
Health

(Delegate Guyton)

**Developmental Disabilities Administration - Self-Directed Services Manual -
Public Comment**

This bill requires the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities to provide notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services Manual developed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). If the Deputy Secretary proposes to make changes to the manual, the Deputy Secretary must receive and consider comments on the proposed changes from the public for at least 90 days after notice is provided to the public. The Deputy Secretary may not adopt the proposed changes until after the public comment period has ended.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: DDA provides self-directed services through three special Medicaid waiver programs known as the Medicaid home- and community-based services programs, including the Family Supports, Community Supports, and Community Pathways waivers. Medicaid waiver programs allow states to make exceptions to specified rules and enable services to be provided in different settings that are tailored to individuals with different needs or varying income levels. For those who qualify, the waiver programs offer services

within the community as an alternative to receiving services in an institution. Applicants must meet specific technical, medical, and financial criteria to receive services.

A participant in self-directed DDA services works with a coordinator of community services to identify needs and preferences and identify an allocated budget amount. A participant develops a self-directed budget for services authorized in their person-centered plan. Participants then select staff or vendors and arrange for services and supports as authorized in the person-centered plan.

The [Self-Directed Services Manual](#), most recently updated on May 19, 2025, is for people who are interested in or currently self-directing their Medicaid waiver services.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 583 (Senator Jennings, *et al.*) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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