

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2018 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. **2**

Resolution No. 23-2018

Introduced by: Calvin Ball and Jennifer Terrasa

A RESOLUTION requesting that the Commission on Disability Issues study Howard County's ability to provide services to the county's residents with disabilities in the areas of Education, Peer Relationships, Employment, Transportation, and Housing; requesting that the Commission submit a report and recommend actions that should be taken by the County as it continuously strives to become a model community for residents with disabilities; and generally relating to the continuous improvement of disability issues in Howard County.

Introduced and read for the first time on _____, 2018.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2018.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read for the third time and was Adopted____, Adopted with amendments____, Failed____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council
on _____, 2018.

Certified by _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, Howard County is often rated as one of the top places to live and is
2 celebrated for the value the community places on its diversity as well as for its commitment to a
3 stellar public education system; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Howard County continuously strives to be a community that is accessible to
6 and inclusive of all residents; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 4.4% of the Howard
9 County population, under 65 years of age, has a disability; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, with passage of Council Bill No. 40 – 1988, the Howard County
12 Commission on Disability Issues was established to:

- 13 • Increase public awareness of disability-related issues,
- 14 • Serve in an advisory capacity on County Government programs, policies, and budget, and
- 15 • Assist County Government to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of
16 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, Section 12.401(h)(2)(ii) of the Howard County Code states that one of the
19 duties of the Commission is to, “Advise the County Executive and County Council on the needs,
20 inequalities, unmet needs, and gaps in such areas as housing, transportation, recreation,
21 employment, education, community services, treatment, rehabilitation and related matters, which
22 may preclude the full integration of persons with disabilities into the community.”; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Section 6.307 of the Howard County Code states that Boards and Commissions
25 may conduct studies and reviews, advise and recommend, and assume other functions as provided by
26 law.
27

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
2 Maryland this _____ day of _____, 2018, that the Council requests that the
3 Commission on Disability Issues research, review, and prepare a report for the County Council
4 and County Executive on best practices in the area of disabilities services, specifically in the
5 areas of Education, Peer Relationships, Employment, Transportation, and Housing, with
6 recommendations on how Howard County Government can support a facilitate full inclusion of
7 all residents in all aspects of community life.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the scope of this request be confined to the
9 capabilities and resources of the Commission on Disability Issues, as to not put an undue burden on
10 resources.

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Council of Howard County requests
12 that the Commission on Disability Issues:

- 13 1. hold at least one public hearing;
- 14 2. consult with:
 - 15 a. the Commission on Transitioning Students with Disabilities;
 - 16 b. the Howard County Public School System;
 - 17 c. Howard Community College;
 - 18 d. the Department of Community Resources and Services;
 - 19 e. the Department of Recreation and Parks;
 - 20 f. the Department of Housing and Community Development;
 - 21 g. the Howard County Housing Commission;
 - 22 h. the Office of Workforce Development; ~~and~~
 - 23 i. the Office of Transportation; and
 - 24 j. Organizations that serve people with disabilities and their families;
- 25 3. meet with other commissions to understand the needs of the disability community from
26 their points of view;
- 27 4. look within the Commission on Disability Issues own member's disciplines to determine
28 where gaps might exist in the County's current service delivery systems, schools, and
29 community as a whole. These observations are to be expressed through the lens of the

1 member’s experiences, community conversations, and professional expertise; and should be
2 included in the report;

3 35. conduct outreach to and seek feedback from people with disabilities and their families; and
4 46. submit its report and recommendations to the County Council and the County Executive by
5 October 1, 2018.

6
7 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
8 Maryland that all units of County government, the Howard County Public School System, and
9 Howard Community College are requested to cooperate fully with the Commission on Disability
10 Issues in its conduct of the studies called for in this Resolution.

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