



2024 Virginia General Assembly Session
List of Bills on Our Agenda & Supporting:

ASCV LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ITEMS:

Reestablish the Autism Advisory Council

[SB 389 - Stella Pekarsky](#)

Reestablishes the Autism Advisory Council, which expired July 1, 2022, to promote coordination of services and resources among agencies involved in the delivery of services to Virginians with autism spectrum disorders and to increase public awareness of services and resources.

Disregard SSDI Income for Medicaid Waiver Eligibility

[HB 908 - Delegate Irene Shin](#)

Requires DMAS to amend the financial eligibility standards for certain waivers providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities so that Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) income is disregarded by the Department when calculating such individuals' financial eligibility for such waivers. Maintains responsibility for patient pay amounts.

Autism-Related Training Requirements for Law-Enforcement Officers

[HB 1246 - Delegate Rodney Willett](#)

[SB 547 - Senator Lamont Bagby](#)

Companion House and Senate bills require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish compulsory minimum and in-service training standards for law enforcement officers on communicating with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The bill requires that such training standards be established in consultation with at least one individual with autism spectrum disorder, one family member of an individual with autism spectrum disorder, one specialist who works with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and one representative from a state or local law enforcement agency.



SUPPORTING:

Amend Requirements for LRIs of Minor Children

[HB 909 - Irene Shin](#)

[SB 488 - Lashrecse Aird](#)

****The Arc of Virginia Agenda Item***

Companion House and Senate bills, regarding Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs), parents of minor children or spouses of adults. DMAS has proposed new guidelines for when LRIs are being paid to provide care to their loved ones. These new guidelines are too restrictive for families; therefore, we have advocated for change. Companion House and Senate bills will allow parents of multiple children to:

1. work up to 40 hours per week per child,
2. remove the requirement that parents are providers of "last resort".
3. allow for respite for unpaid caregivers, and
4. allow another parent to serve as Employer of Record ("EOR").

Disregard SSDI Income for Medicaid Waiver Eligibility

[HB127-Delegate Vivian Watts](#)

Directs DMAS and DBHDS to seek to modify the program rules for 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waivers to disregard Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) in calculating eligibility for 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waivers. *Similar to HB908 on our agenda above, watching*

Accommodation Policy at Public Colleges and Universities for Students With Disabilities

[SB21 - Senator Saddam Azlan Salim](#)

[HB509 - Laura Jane Cohen](#)

Standardize disability documentation requirements across public colleges and universities in Virginia by requiring these institutions to accept a variety of documentation as proof of a disability, streamlining the process for students to qualify for accommodations. The bill aims to eliminate the need for an unnecessary, often costly psychological or medical evaluation for students with previously documented disabilities.



IEP & Special Education Services

[HB1089- Delegate Carrie Coyner](#)

[SB220- Senator Barbara Favola](#)

Companion House and Senate Bills that address special education services, define IEPs and specially designed instruction, and require record retention for 75 years. Require school boards to provide professional development for instruction in inclusive settings and hire one parent engagement specialist as a resource for parents. The Department of Education is required to establish eight regional special education parent support centers and the State Parent Ombudsman for Special Education to track and report questions raised by parents. The Department of Education must also develop the "Virginia IEP" which is an IEP writing, facilitation, tracking, and transfer system. Any higher education teacher training program for certain certifications shall include a program of coursework and require all such students to demonstrate mastery in instructional practices to support specially designed instruction in inclusive settings.

DD Medicaid Waiver Regulations

[SB610 - Stella Pekarsky & David R. Suetterlein](#)

[HB577 - Chris Runion](#)

**The Arc of Virginia Agenda Item*

Companion House & Senate Bills, directing the DMAS and the DBHDS to amend their regulations to allow for support coordinators to request and subsequently obtain approval of consecutive waiver slot-retention requests for a period of 365 calendar days for individuals who have been assigned a Developmental Disability waiver slot. Current regulations allow for four consecutive 30-day slot-retention extensions. Sunsets June 30, 2026.