



## Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

### 2025 Biennial Disability Bill Sharing Session Bill Resource Document

	Presenter	Organization/Contact	Bill(s)
1.	Senator Joanne Comerford Rachel Klein Legislative Director	<a href="mailto:Rachel.Klein@masenate.gov">Rachel.Klein@masenate.gov</a>	<b><u>SD.853</u> - An Act facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder. (a.k.a., The Blue Envelope Bill)</b> (Senator Comerford) This bill aims to make interactions between people with autism and police officers safer.
2.	Barbara L'Italien, ED	Disability Law Center (DLC) <a href="mailto:blitalien@dlc-ma.org">blitalien@dlc-ma.org</a>  <a href="http://www.dlc-ma.org">www.dlc-ma.org</a>	<b><u>HD.3617/SD.1384</u> - An Act expanding wheelchair warranty protections for consumers with disabilities.</b> (Representative Cronin/Senator O'Day) This legislation aims to make the repair of wheelchairs more timely.  <b><u>HD.1117/SD.857</u> - An Act protecting benefits owed to foster children.</b> (Representative Farley-Bouvier & Senator Comerford) This legislation would place into law the recent practice of no longer sweeping SSI/SSDI benefits away from foster youth into the general fund. It would instead set up ABLE accounts to save for needs upon transition.  <b><u>HD.761/SD.372</u> – An Act establishing a designation of a state protection and advocacy system.</b> (Representative Barber/Senator Eldridge) This legislation establishes a protection and advocacy system to investigate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of persons with disabilities. The legislation would require an independent private nonprofit designated as the protection and advocacy system for the commonwealth under the federal law.
3.	Representative Garballey (Remote)	<a href="mailto:Derek.Keenan@mahouse.gov">Derek.Keenan@mahouse.gov</a>	<b><u>HD.1903</u> - An Act to enhance standards of care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.</b> (Representative Garballey)  <b><u>HD.2058</u> - An Act to protect medically fragile children.</b> (Representative Garballey)  <b><u>HD.2762</u> - An Act updating terminology and investigative practices related to the protection of persons with disabilities.</b> (Representative Garballey)



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4.	Cassidy Trabilcy, Staff Director for Representative Jay Livingstone	<a href="mailto:Cassidy.Trabilcy@mahouse.gov">Cassidy.Trabilcy@mahouse.gov</a>	<b><u>HD.1664 - An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in Family and Juvenile Court proceedings.</u></b> <i>(Representative Jay Livingstone)</i> This bill would protect parents with disabilities from being denied the custody of their child(s) by requiring courts to determine if the parent's disability causes actual harm to a child based on evidence, explain in writing if a parent's disability is a negative factor in custody and parenting decisions, and assess if the harm can be avoided with adaptive equipment and supportive services for the parent.
			<b><u>HD.3407 - An Act relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults.</u></b> <i>(Representatives Jay Livingstone &amp; Michael Finn)</i> This bill would provide an alternative to guardianship by allowing adults, including individuals with disabilities, to maintain their rights and independence by making decisions about their own life with a team of chosen supporters.
5.	Sandy Heller, Craig Heller, Jonathan Gardner, & Nancy Gardner (Remote)	Mass Supported Decision-Making Coalition (MASDM) <a href="mailto:mrjg3411@gmail.com">mrjg3411@gmail.com</a>  <a href="#">Massachusetts SDM Legislation - Supported Decision-Making</a>	<b><u>SD.1390 - An Act relative to authorizing supported decision-making agreements for certain adults with disabilities.</u></b> <i>(Senator Joan Lovely)</i> Creates a process by which certain adults with disabilities who need assistance with decisions may choose to make and communicate decisions. It is an alternative to guardianship and does not replace guardianship in any way.
6.	Ethan Raye, Communications Director presenting for Senator Barrett	<a href="mailto:Ethan.Raye@masenate.gov">Ethan.Raye@masenate.gov</a>	<b><u>SD.1636 - An Act to require closed captioning in telecommunications in public areas.</u></b> <i>(Senator Barrett)</i>
			<b><u>SD.1458 - An Act relating to public access to historical records.</u></b> <i>(Senator Barrett)</i>
7.	Representative Barber	<a href="mailto:aditi.vaidya@mahouse.gov">aditi.vaidya@mahouse.gov</a> <a href="mailto:emily.camizzi@mahouse.gov">emily.camizzi@mahouse.gov</a>	<b><u>HD.1917 - An Act expanding the availability of adaptable housing for people with disabilities and seniors.</u></b> <i>(Representative Barber)</i>
			<b><u>HD.627 - An Act to improve augmentative and alternative communication opportunities for children with disabilities.</u></b> <i>(Representative Barber)</i>



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8.	Reuben Kittrell Kristen Eriksen	<p>MassFASD 857-262-4010 <a href="mailto:reubenkittrell@healthrecovery.org">reubenkittrell@healthrecovery.org</a> <a href="mailto:kristeneriksen@healthrecovery.org">kristeneriksen@healthrecovery.org</a></p> <p>MassFASD is a Resource for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in Massachusetts. <a href="http://massFAS.org">massFAS.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>HD.723 – An Act establishing a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders program.</u></b> <i>(Representative Danillo Sena)</i></p> <p>This bill develops a program to spread awareness and expand service options for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). There are a range of effects that can happen to individuals that have been prenatally exposed to alcohol, including diagnoses such as fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), partial fetal alcohol syndrome (pFAS), alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder (ARND), Static Encephalopathy – Alcohol Exposed (SE-AE), neurobehavioral disorders associated with prenatal alcohol exposure (ND-PAE), and alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD). The bill instructs the Department of Public Health to create an FASD program tasked with developing an awareness, prevention, identification, intervention and service delivery program. The bill will also create an FASD advisory committee consisting of individuals with FASD or their guardians, FASD advocates, and professionals in the field, to develop a strategic plan and provide guidance to the program.</p> <p><b><i>The bill draft has been accepted, but not yet filed by the House Clerk. Go to the link below to view the drafted bill language:</i></b> <a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:2e5b5ee3-c590-49fa-806c-59cf9adc1797">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:2e5b5ee3-c590-49fa-806c-59cf9adc1797</a></p>
9.	R Feynman	<p>Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) <a href="mailto:rfeynman@dpcma.org">rfeynman@dpcma.org</a> <a href="http://www.dpcma.org">www.dpcma.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>HD.1953/SD.1708: An Act to Create Affordable Homes for Persons with Disabilities.</u></b> <i>(Representatives Rob Consalvo &amp; Marjorie C. Decker)</i></p> <p>This bill will improve a housing program called AHVP. AHVP stands for “The Affordable Housing Voucher Program”. AHVP is a program run by the state. Lots of adults with disabilities do not have enough money to pay rent. This program uses state money to help these adults pay their rent. This bill will make it easier for people with disabilities (PWDs) to apply for help with rent. It will also make it easier for the Housing Authorities to give PWDs the help they need. This bill will lead to more PWDs living in safe and stable homes.</p>



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			<p><b><u>HD.2485/SD.1130 - An Act relative to preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health care.</u></b> <i>(Representatives Domb &amp; Howard &amp; Senator Gomez)</i></p> <p>Everyone should be treated fairly at the doctor's office and hospital. Many disabled people are treated unfairly in medical situations. Some people believe that the life of a disabled person is worse, or worth less than, the life of a non-disabled person.</p> <p>This bill makes sure doctors and health insurance act like all lives are valuable. It says that people with disabilities can't be sent to the end of the line for treatment. It says that if insurance would agree to pay for something for a non-disabled person, they must agree to pay for it for a disabled person.</p>
			<p><b><u>HD.3015 - An Act relative to health insurance coverage for hearing aids.</u></b> <i>(Representative Garballey &amp; Giannino)</i></p> <p>Hearing aids are very expensive. Most health insurance does not pay for hearing aids. People who need hearing aids must pay a lot of money to hear. That isn't fair. This bill would make health insurance companies pay for hearing aids.</p>
10.	Jose Lopez	<p>The Arc of Massachusetts</p> <p><a href="mailto:lopez@arcmass.org">lopez@arcmass.org</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.thearcofmass.org">www.thearcofmass.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>HD.1903/SD.1231 – Healthcare Standards Bill - An Act to enhance standards of care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.</u></b> <i>(Representative Garballey &amp; Senator Lewis)</i></p> <p>This bill seeks to create an integrated state plan to develop training and education for health care providers, as well as establishing appropriate standards of care.</p>
			<p><b><u>HD.1110/SD.1565 - Family Members as Caregivers Bill- An Act relative to family members serving as caregivers.</u></b> <i>(Representative O'Day &amp; Kane &amp; Senator Lovely)</i></p> <p>This bill would allow MassHealth to pay family members for their caregiving service.</p>
			<p><b><u>HD.2647/SD.1662 - Turning 22 Transparency Bill - An Act strengthening transitional planning and increasing accountability for</u></b></p>



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			<p><b>persons with disabilities and their families.</b> (Representative Whipps &amp; Senator Comerford)</p> <p>This legislation would improve reporting on those approaching age 22 and create a commission to improve transition planning and outcomes.</p>
11.	Karen Romano (Remote)	MA Changing Spaces Jayme Betts <a href="mailto:machangingspaces@gmail.com">machangingspaces@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://ChangingSpacesUSA">ChangingSpacesUSA</a>	<p><b>HD.982/SD.2250 An Act requiring universal changing stations in public buildings.</b> (Senator Barrett)</p>
12.	Kelly Buttiglieri, Esq. Public Affairs Manager, BIAMA	MA Brain Injury Association <a href="mailto:kbuttiglieri@biama.org">kbuttiglieri@biama.org</a> <a href="http://www.biama.org">www.biama.org</a>	<p><b>HD 866/SD 1890 – An Act relative to cognitive rehabilitation for individuals with an acquired brain injury.</b> (Representative Ferguson &amp; Senator Feeney)</p> <p>This cognitive rehabilitation bill will require commercial health insurance plans to cover cognitive rehabilitation services related to the treatment for brain injuries.</p> <p><b>HD.868/SD.2507- An Act relative to the head injury treatment services trust fund.</b> (Representative Ferguson &amp; Senator Driscoll)</p> <p>This bill will authorize the following fines to be deposited in the HITS trust fund: increase fines for speeding violation to \$100; 100% of revenues collected for OUI/DUI to be deposited in the trust fund; stagger and increase fines for multiples offenses of OUI/DUI; and \$50 of fines collected under the Hands-Free law.</p> <p><b>HD.1180/SD.2064 - An Act establishing a primary seat belt law.</b> (Representatives Roy &amp; McMurtry &amp; Senator Feeney)</p> <p>This bill would change the law in MA to allow police officers to stop a vehicle and issue a citation for a seat belt violation, even if this is the only violation officers' notice. The \$50 fine for not wearing a seatbelt will be deposited in the Head Injury Treatment Services (HITS) trust fund.</p>
13.	Mia Cappuccio, Self-Advocate	Jeanne Cappuccio <a href="mailto:jeannecap@msn.com">jeannecap@msn.com</a>	<p><b>H.1 State Budget Bill</b> (Governor Healey)</p> <p>Funding for day programming is at the same level in the Governor's proposed state budget. There are thousands of people waiting for day programming services. Mia will talk about why quality day programming is important to individuals with developmental disabilities and their</p>



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			families and why access to these and other services are critical to the DD Community.
14.	Ewidji Vincent & Jevon Okundaye	Massachusetts Advocates for Children <a href="mailto:EVincent@massadvocates.org">EVincent@massadvocates.org</a> <a href="mailto:akrieger@massadvocates.org">akrieger@massadvocates.org</a> <a href="mailto:JOkundaye@massadvocates.org">JOkundaye@massadvocates.org</a> <a href="http://www.massadvocates.org">www.massadvocates.org</a>	<p><b><a href="#">HD.2144/ SD.1208- An Act Relative to Affirming and Maintaining Equal Access to Public Education for All Children.</a></b> (Representatives Frank Moran &amp; Alice Peisch &amp; Senators Payano and DiDomenico)</p> <p><b><a href="#">HD.627/SD.361- An Act to Improve Augmentative and Alternative Communication Opportunities for Children with Disabilities.</a></b> (Representative Barber &amp; Senator O'Connor)</p> <p><b><a href="#">HD.485/ SD.1083 - An Act Relative to the Training, Assessment, and Assignment of Qualified School Interpreters in Educational Settings.</a></b> (Representative Cabral &amp; Senator Crighton)</p>
15.	KC Linardon (Remote)	<a href="mailto:kc2020campaign@gmail.com">kc2020campaign@gmail.com</a>	<p><b><a href="#">HD.2857 - An Act relative to childless individuals with chronic disabilities experiencing homelessness.</a></b> (Representative Livingstone - by request)</p> <p><b><a href="#">HD.4305 - An Act to change and increase the state's current minimum/maximum number required for handicap apartments in rental apartment complex, home and hotels including handicap reasonable accommodations modifications and diversity.</a></b> (Petitioner - KC Linardon)</p> <p><b><a href="#">Bill HD.4306 - An Act to reform, dissolve and recreate the housing authorities and end housing choice and benefit racial discrimination.</a></b> (Petitioner - KC Linardon)</p>