

MEMORANDUM

July 20, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Jim Ogorzalek, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Membership; appointment; terms – Amendments

PURPOSE: Worksession

Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission – Membership; appointment; terms – Amendments, was introduced on June 16, 2026. Its Lead Sponsors are Councilmembers Luedtke and Evans. Its Co-Sponsors are Council President Fani-González, Council Vice President Balcombe, and Councilmembers Friedson, Stewart, Sayles, Katz, Mink, and Jawando. A public hearing occurred on July 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Bill 28-26 would:

- (1) revise the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.

Background

In 2023, the Council established the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (“IDD”) Commission to advise the County Council and County Executive, and to better coordinate the provision of services to individuals with IDD and their families. The Committee, which receives staff support from the Department of Health and Human Services (M.C.C. § 24-76), is required to perform certain enumerated duties (M.C.C. § 24-74) and submit an annual “report to the County Executive and County Council summarizing its activities, needs, recommendations and the degree to which the goals of the Commission are being met” (M.C.C. § 24-75(e)). As presently constituted, the Commission consists of 19 voting members and 6 non-voting members (designees of certain entities). The requirements for the 19 voting members are as follows: 2 individuals with IDD; 9 family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD; 7 individuals representing service providers or advocacy organizations that support individuals with IDD; and 1 member of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

Bill Specifics

Bill 28-26 would revise the voting-member structure—specifically expanding and updating the 11 members who must either be individuals with IDD (2) or family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD (9). The revised structure—which was requested by the Commission in a memorandum to the County Executive and County Council—is intended “to update the Commission’s membership structure to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families,” according to the Commission. As revised, the Commission would be expanded to 23 voting members with the following composition: 5 individuals with IDD; 5 individuals who are parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves; 5 individuals who are either individuals with IDD or parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves; 7 individuals representing service providers or advocacy organizations that support individuals with IDD; and 1 member of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The bill also requires that at least 3 of the 15 members composing the first three categories must be individuals who participate in Self-Directed Services, as defined under State law.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT STATEMENTS*

Fiscal Impact. “The bill is not expected to impact County expenditures.”

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A public hearing was held on July 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. All speakers—each of whom indicated some current or former relationship to the IDD Commission—testified in favor of the bill.

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE’S CONSIDERATION¹

Name of Bill

At introduction, lead sponsor Councilmember Luedtke announced an intent to name the bill in honor of Jake Didinsky. Below is the proposed amendment offered by Councilmember Luedtke.

Add lines 36–37, as follows:

Sec. 2. Short title. This bill may be known as “The Jake Didinsky Advocacy Act.”

¹ The Committee authorizes Council Legislative Attorneys to make non-substantive technical corrections necessary to fix any typographical, stylistic, formatting, or grammatical errors in Bill 28-26.

This packet contains:

Bill 28-26

IDDC Memorandum to County Executive and County Council

Fiscal Impact Statement

Circle #

1

4

7

*The Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statement, Economic Impact Statement, and Climate Assessment were not available at the time of publication of this staff report. They can be found at the below address when available: [Racial Equity and Social Justice, Economic, and Climate Impact Statements - Office of Legislative Oversight - Montgomery County, Maryland \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/legislativeservices/Pages/Racial-Equity-and-Social-Justice-Economic-and-Climate-Impact-Statements.aspx)

Bill No. 28-26
Concerning: Health and Sanitation –
Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities Commission –
Membership; appointment; terms –
Amendments
Revised: 7/9/2026 Draft No. 2
Introduced: June 16, 2026
Expiration: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke and Evans
Co-Sponsors: Council President Fani-González, Council Vice President Balcombe, and
Councilmembers Friedson, Stewart, Sayles, Katz, Mink, and Jawando

AN ACT to:

- (1) revise the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission; and
- (2) generally amend the law regarding the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Sections 24-71 and 24-73

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Sections 24-71 and 24-73 are amended as follows:

Sec. 24-71. Definitions and Policy Statement.

* * *

Commission means the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission established under this Article.

* * *

Self-Directed Services has the meaning set forth in Section 7-101 of the Health – General Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

* * *

Sec. 24-73. Membership; appointment; terms.

(a) The Commission consists of [19] 23 voting members and 6 non-voting members.

(b) The voting members are appointed by the County Executive, subject to Council confirmation, and must include:

(1) [2] 5 individuals with IDD;

(2) [9 family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD] 5 individuals who are parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves;

(3) 5 individuals who are either individuals with IDD or parents or guardians of children with IDD or guardians or immediate relatives of adults with IDD who cannot advocate for themselves;

(4) 7 individuals representing service providers or advocacy organizations that support individuals with IDD; and

[(4)] (5) [1] one member of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

27 At least 3 of the 15 members under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this
 28 subsection must be individuals who participate in Self-Directed Services.

29 (c) The non-voting members are designees of the following agencies:

- 30 (1) Department of Health and Human Services;
- 31 (2) Department of Recreation;
- 32 (3) Montgomery County Public Schools;
- 33 (4) Montgomery College;
- 34 (5) WorkSource Montgomery; and
- 35 (6) Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

Marc Elrich
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA
Director

1/29/2026

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Members of the Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Request for Legislation to Update the Membership Structure of the Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC)

Dear County Executive Elrich and Members of the County Council:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC), we respectfully request that the County Executive and County Council introduce legislation to update the Commission's membership structure to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

After extensive review, the IDDC has concluded that its current composition does not adequately reflect the principle at the core of the disability rights movement: *"Nothing About Us, Without Us."* Advisory bodies across the country have historically marginalized the voices of people with IDD by placing them in the minority, often without sufficient voting power to influence policy decisions that directly affect their lives. The Commission seeks to correct this imbalance.

The proposed membership structure embeds lived experience at the center of decision-making. It reflects a model used successfully for more than fifty years by State Developmental Disabilities Councils established under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). The DD Act requires that at least 60% of Council members be individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members, ensuring that those most impacted by policy decisions hold a determinative voice. This structure has proven effective nationwide in advancing rights-based reforms, expanding community services, and improving the responsiveness of government systems to the people they serve.

Following this precedent, the Commission proposes increasing its voting membership from 19 to **23 voting members, composed as follows:**

- **Constituency A: People with IDD and Family Members – 15 seats (65%)**
 - 5 seats for self-advocates

- 5 seats for family members, guardians, or support staff
 - 5 mixed-designation seats (self-advocate or family/guardian/support staff)
- At least 3 of the Constituency A seats must be filled by individuals who receive—or participate in—the Self-Directed Services (SDS) system

- **Constituency B: Service Providers and Advocacy Organizations – 7 seats (30%)**
- **Commission on People with Disabilities (CPD) Member – 1 seat (4%)**

Consistent with the DD Act model, family members of adults with IDD should serve only when the adult cannot advocate for themselves. This respectful, person-centered approach upholds self-determination while ensuring that individuals who cannot participate still have meaningful representation. To support this process, the Commission should rely on the iTACC “[Guidance to Determine Membership in Alignment with DD Act Requirements](#)”, which provides clear, federally aligned criteria for determining when a family member may appropriately serve in place of an adult with IDD.

The proposed approach ensures strong self-advocate representation, prevents tokenism, and incorporates the perspectives of people using Self-Directed Services—an increasingly significant portion of the disability community. The structure also preserves a meaningful, but not dominant, role for providers and advocacy organizations.

This proposal was shaped by the leadership and lived experience of Commissioner **Jake Didinsky**, one of only two self-advocates with IDD who served on the inaugural IDD Commission. Jake’s consistent and thoughtful contributions highlighted the need for a structure that places people with IDD at the center of decision-making rather than at the margins. His advocacy and example were instrumental in guiding the Commission toward a model that fully recognizes the expertise of lived experience. In recognition of his impact, should legislation to update the Commission’s membership be introduced, the IDDC respectfully requests that it be named in his honor.

This proposed structure also allows for a smooth and practical transition from the current 19-member voting composition to the expanded 23-member model. Because the framework includes mixed-designation seats and clearly defined categories, existing members who meet the new criteria can continue their service without disruption. The flexible seat structure also enables the Nominations Committee to phase in new members as terms expire, ensuring continuity, stability, and respect for the contributions of current Commissioners while moving the IDDC toward a more equitable and representative membership model.

We believe these revisions will strengthen the effectiveness, legitimacy, and equity of the IDDC. They will also position Montgomery County as a leader in participatory disability governance—one that honors the expertise of lived experience and ensures that policy recommendations are grounded in the real needs of the community.

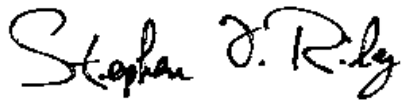
For these reasons, the IDDC formally requests that the County Executive and County Council introduce and adopt legislation updating the Commission’s membership structure as outlined above.

We appreciate your continued commitment to ensuring that Montgomery County is a place where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live, work, and thrive as full members of the

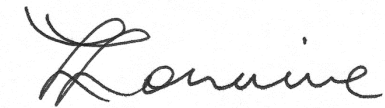
community. The Commission stands ready to assist with drafting, testimony, or any additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC)



Stephen F. Riley, Chair, IDDC



Lisa Lorraine, Chair of the Policies and Programs Committee, IDDC

Commissioners:

Carmen Smith
Carmen Zahra
Dorne Hill
Eric Salzano
Jenn Lynn
Jillian Copeland
John Whittle
Justin Hack

Karla Nabors
Lisa Klem
Lisa Lorraine
Lori Mitchell-Keller
Dr. Margaret Cage
Melita Bell
Miles Cox
Najla Wortham

Onesta Duke
Patrick (Rick) Callahan
Stephen (Steve) Riley
Susan Hartung
Swapnika Madhavaram
Tracy Craig
Yvonne VanLowe



Fiscal Impact Statement

Office of Management and Budget

Bill 28-26	Bill 28-26, Health and Sanitation - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission - Membership; appointment; terms - Amendments
Bill Summary	Bill 28-26 revises the membership structure of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC) and generally amends the law regarding the IDDC. The bill increases the number of voting members from 19 to 23 by specifically expanding the membership to include individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) or family members, guardians, or support staff of individuals with IDD, and requiring that three of those members participate in Self-Directed Services. The Commission requested this change to align with best practices in disability governance and ensure equitable, meaningful representation of people with IDD and their families.
Fiscal Impact Summary	The bill is not expected to impact County expenditures.
Fiscal Impact Analysis	The bill revises the membership structure of the IDDC and does not have a fiscal impact.
Staff Impact	The expanded membership proposed in the bill may increase the workload of current staff; however, this increase is expected to be manageable within existing capacity. The actual workload impact will depend on the priorities established by the expanded IDDC and the issues the Commission elects to address moving forward.
Actuarial Analysis	The bill is not expected to impact retiree pension or group insurance costs.
Information Technology Impact	The bill is not expected to impact the County Information Technology (IT) or Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.
Other Information	
<i>Later actions that may impact revenue or expenditures if future spending is projected</i>	The bill does not authorize future spending.
Contributors	Kim Mayo, Department of Health and Human Services Hamza Ahmed, Office of Management and Budget

