

## THE ARC OF MASSACHUSETTS: ADDITIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES AS OF JUNE 2024

### **Universal Changing Tables - H4397**

*Status: in House Ways and Means Committee (HW&MC).* An Act requiring universal changing stations in public buildings. This bill would require at least one “Universal changing station,” on or after January 1, 2026 in any new or remodeled public buildings. This would enable persons of any age or sex to be assisted with diapering or change of clothing within an enclosed restroom facility. Presently adults cannot utilize the changing tables intended for infants or toddlers due to size. Regulations would be developed by the Architectural Access Board to apply to any new or remodeled buildings. Representative Angelo Puppolo.

### **Supporting Autistic Drivers through the Blue Envelope Program - H3359 / S2542**

*Status: passed by the Senate; in HW&MC.* This bill will facilitate understanding and better communication between law enforcement and autistic drivers. Autistic drivers can voluntarily request a blue envelope, which attaches to the car’s visor. The envelope would hold the driver’s license, registration, etc., as well as specific instructions for the police officer on the driver’s diagnosis, impairments, triggers, and contact information. Representatives Kay Khan and Mindy Domb, Senator Jo Comerford.

### **Katie’s Law, Updating Archaic Language - H4396 / S95**

*Status: in Senate Committee on Rules.* Bill would strike out certain archaic and outdated words, phrases and language in our MA chapter law, e.g. mental retardation, handicapped. Representatives Mike Finn and Sean Garballey, Senator Patricia Jehlen.

### **Tommy's Law - H213 / S123**

*Status: in HW&MC.* An Act to increase the safety of individuals with disabilities relying on life-support equipment. This bill will require appropriate discharge plan review with residential facility nursing staff and increase the accountability for medical equipment monitoring. Representative Dave Rogers, Senator Patrick O’Connor.

### **Public Access to Historical Records - H4527 / S1965**

*Status: ordered to Third Reading.* This bill will allow historical records in the custody of the Secretary of State to be open for public inspection after 75 years. This bill will support the work of the Special Commission on the history of state institutions. Representatives Sean Garballey and Mindy Domb, Senator Mike Barrett

### **An Act Relative to Persons with Developmental Disabilities – H4625**

*Status: in House Committee on Rules.* This bill adopts the federal definition of developmental disability in place of the current state definition and will amend the law to include all adults with a developmental disability, e.g. cerebral palsy and fetal alcohol syndrome. Representative James O’Day, Senator Joan Lovely.

### **An Act to Protect Medically Fragile Kids - H1192 / S748**

*Status: in SW&MC.* This bill addresses the lack of Continuous Nursing for those who have medically complex conditions and resolves the inequity in rate setting for these positions. Finding certified medical personnel can be nearly impossible for those who care for medically complex children and adults. Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative Denise Garlick

### **An Act Relative to Cueing and Supervision in the PCA Program - H206 / S107**

*Status: in HW&MC.* This bill amends Chapter 7 of the General Law to allow the PCA Program to include cueing and prompting as a covered service for those eligible members who need prompting or cueing to perform two or more activities of daily living (ADL). Representative James J. O’Day, and Senator Joan Lovely.

### **Expanding Availability of Adaptable Housing for People with Disabilities and the Elderly - H2291**

*Status: in HW&MC.* An Act expanding the availability of adaptable housing for people with disabilities and seniors. HD.1567 (& SD. 893) address loopholes that prevent buildings constructed prior to 1991, and all workplaces to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It accomplishes this by bringing such buildings under the purview of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board when newly built or when major renovations take place, ensuing more accessible housing units are available in our state, and expanding employment access. Representatives Christine Barber and Michael Moran.

### **Building a More Accessible Massachusetts - S1553**

*Status: in SW&MC.* 893 (& HD.1567) address loopholes that prevent buildings constructed prior to 1991, and all workplaces to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It accomplishes this by bringing such buildings under the purview of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board when newly built or when major renovations take place, ensuing more accessible housing units are available in our state, and expanding employment access. Senator Michael Moore

### **Resolve Reviving and Continuing the Non-Emergency HST Task Force - S121 / H3302**

*Status: in Senate & House Committees on Rules.* This bill extends SECTION 134 which was in the FY'22 budget establishing a Non-Emergency Human Services Transportation Task Force. The goal of the task force was to improve service and achieve operational and cost efficiencies and provide the highest quality outcomes for consumers utilizing Human Services Transportation (HST) Office at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). HST is the second (2nd) largest public provider of transportation services with 50,000 MassHealth consumers using the service. In FY'22, HST provided through brokers, 6.2 million rides to those consumers. Senator Susan Moran, Representatives Mindy Domb and Sarah K. Peake.

### **Establishing the HST Consumer Advisory Board - S1434 / H3303**

*Status: in SW&MC and HW&MC.* An Act Establishing the Human Service Transportation (HST) Consumer Advisory Board. This bill establishes a community advisory board for the Human Services Transportation (HST) Office at EOHHS to identify challenges and solutions to address the experience and concerns of eligible MassHealth consumers. The council would help guide HST to ensure that non-emergency transportation to medical, community and other essential human services are safe, reliable, and of high quality. Senator Susan Moran, Representatives Mindy Domb and Sarah K. Peake.

### **Expanding Wheelchair Warranty Protections for Consumers with Disabilities - S2546**

*Status: in Joint Committee on Health Care Financing; extended to July 31, 2024.* Expands the existing warranty to two years, and will cover all wheelchair users in the Commonwealth, not just those who are on private insurance or can afford to pay out of pocket. It will hold wheelchair providers and suppliers to reasonable repair timelines by requiring they cover costs consumers face as a result of their defective chairs, and stock common parts so they are prepared to service chairs efficiently. It will also require that companies provide loaner chairs (where possible) if needed. Representative Jim O'Day, Senator John Cronin.