

# **SB 853 - The Ethan Saylor Alliance For Self-Advocates As Educators**

**Passed the Senate unanimously – Need passage in House**

## **Background:**

- In 2013, Ethan Saylor, a young man with Down syndrome, died in a Frederick movie theatre in the custody of law enforcement.
- Ethan’s death could have been avoided had law enforcement been better trained about how to appropriately respond to and interact with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- Governor O’Malley established a Commission in response to the tragic death of Mr. Saylor. After a year of collaborative work involving the disability and law enforcement communities, training objectives were adopted by the Police Training Commission – Beginning in 2015, **all police academies in Maryland will be required to include training about how to effectively and appropriately interact with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**
- **A critical component of the training is including individuals with IDD (“self-advocates”) as trainers. In order for people with IDD to perform this role effectively, they must be recruited, prepared and supported – SB 853 will help ensure this happens.**



## **What SB 853 does:**

- The Dept. of Disabilities (DOD) will establish a Steering Committee of stakeholders. Through a competitive process, the Steering Committee will select and oversee one or more entities to implement a training Alliance, which will:
  - ✓ Prepare and support people with IDD (self-advocates) to play an active role as trainers;
  - ✓ Connect law enforcement with trained self-advocate educators;
  - ✓ Promote collaborative efforts that support community inclusion; and
  - ✓ Identify resources needed to prepare and support self-advocate educators.
- DOD and the Steering Committee will evaluate the Alliance’s activities and outcomes and develop recommendations for sustainability and expansion, including costs and potential sources of funding.
- The sustainability and expansion plan will consider the training needs of other public and private sectors necessary to ensure effective and appropriate interaction with people with IDD so are safe, understood, and included in their communities.

**SB 853 was significantly amended before passage to reduce out year costs identified in the fiscal note.**