



**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD FOR  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY**

Larry Hogan  
*Governor*

Alfred Sonnenstrahl  
*Chair*

Boyd K. Rutherford  
*Lieutenant Governor*

Darrin Smith  
*Vice Chair*

January 1, 2022

The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV  
President  
Senate of Maryland  
H-107, State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker  
House of Delegates  
H-101, State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay (GABTR or The Board), I am pleased to submit the annual report for the 2021 calendar year, pursuant to Human Services Article § 7-803(d) and in accordance with State Government Article § 2-1257 .

The Board met four times in 2021, receiving reports from Telecommunications Access of Maryland ("TAM") staff, representatives from the Maryland Relay service provider, Hamilton, and outside presenters.

Following TAM's move to the Department of Disabilities ("MDoD") from the Department of Information Technology ("DoIT") marketing materials, including logos, and outreach materials, were updated coordinate with the State of Maryland's branding guideline and to reflect the agency's new home.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to honor the first anniversary of the transition from DoIT to MDoD, TAM and GABTR jointly hosted a virtual town hall to be transparent with the community regarding the transition and share updates on current projects and reflect on the successes made in 2020 and the beginning of 2021.

With the Board's guidance, the Maryland Accessible Technology ("MAT") program developed and launched the DeafBlind Communication Facilitators ("CF") program, which provides DeafBlind Marylanders with specially trained communication facilitators to facilitate access to telecommunications relay services. When a DeafBlind caller makes a request, the MAT program sends an assigned communication facilitator to the DeafBlind user's preferred location at their preferred time and the facilitator will interpret the call for the DeafBlind caller. The CF program had their first client and facilitated call on December 17, 2021.



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On December 1, 2021, TAM celebrated the 30-year anniversary of the first call made using Maryland Relay on December 1, 1991. GABTR looks forward to the next 30 years of continued work with TAM and MDoD, and is excited to see what the next year brings.

Sincerely,

*Alfred Sonnenstrahl*

Alfred Sonnenstrahl  
GABTR Chair