

Chapter 181

(Senate Bill 592)

AN ACT concerning

~~Department of Health and Mental Hygiene—Community Health Workers— Certification and Reimbursement~~

Workgroup on Workforce Development for Community Health Workers

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ~~to adopt regulations, on or before a certain date, that establish certification criteria and reimbursement and payment policies for community health workers; requiring the Department, if applicable, to receive certain approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; requiring the Department and the Maryland Insurance Administration to establish a certain stakeholder workgroup; requiring, to the extent practicable, a certain minimum percentage of the membership of the workgroup to be composed of certain individuals; requiring the workgroup to conduct a certain study and make certain recommendations; requiring the workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to community health workers.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article—Health—General
Section 15—101(a) and (h)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article—Health—General
Section 15—148
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article—Health—General~~

~~15—101.~~

(a) ~~In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(h) "Program" means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.~~

~~15-148.~~

~~(A) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2015, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:~~

~~(1) CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AS NONCLINICAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND~~

~~(2) PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT AND PAYMENT POLICIES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.~~

~~(B) THE CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL REQUIRE:~~

~~(1) RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE FROM A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CURRICULUM PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT; OR~~

~~(2) COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CORE COMPETENCIES THAT INCLUDE AN INITIAL 80 HOURS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING AND 20 COMBINED HOURS OF CONTINUED EDUCATION EVERY 2 YEARS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:~~

~~(i) THE COMMUNITY HEALTH ROLE;~~

~~(ii) ORGANIZATION AND RESOURCES;~~

~~(iii) LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES;~~

~~(iv) COORDINATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND REPORTING;~~

~~(v) COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE;~~

~~(vi) THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER IN HEALTH PROMOTION;~~

~~(vii) ACCESSING MEDICATIONS AND CARE RESOURCES;~~

~~(viii) ADHERENCE TO TREATMENT BY NONCOMPLIANT PATIENTS;~~

~~(ix) PERSONAL CARE AND STRESS;~~

~~(X) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SKILLS; AND~~

~~(XI) CORE DISEASE AND HEALTH ISSUE TRAINING.~~

~~(C) IF APPLICABLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK ANY APPROVAL NECESSARY FROM THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO REIMBURSE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS FOR PROVIDING PREVENTIVE SERVICES.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland Insurance Administration jointly shall establish a stakeholder workgroup on workforce development for community health workers.

(b) To the extent practicable, at least 50% of the membership of the workgroup shall be composed of individuals who:

(1) are directly involved in the provision of nonclinical health care; or

(2) represent an institution or organization that is directly involved in the provision of nonclinical health care.

~~(b)~~ (c) The workgroup shall study and make recommendations regarding:

(1) the training and credentialing required for community health workers to be certified as nonclinical health care providers; and

(2) reimbursement and payment policies for community health workers through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and private insurers.

~~(c)~~ (d) On or before ~~December 1, 2014~~ June 1, 2015, the workgroup shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

SECTION ~~2~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.