

# HOUSE BILL 1160

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By: **Delegate Lierman**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Breathe Easy Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the director of the Asthma Control Program in the Maryland  
4 Department of Health to establish the Breathe Easy Pilot Program in cooperation  
5 and consultation with certain entities; providing for the purpose of the Pilot  
6 Program; requiring the director, in consultation with a certain entity, to select, on or  
7 before a certain date, certain households to participate in the Pilot Program, to  
8 provide certain households with certain asthma remediation services, and to study  
9 certain information; authorizing the director to include in the Pilot Program, at the  
10 discretion of the director, the implementation of certain policies in the Baltimore  
11 City Health Department and the development of a certain referral process or certain  
12 integrated partnerships through which certain households may access certain  
13 programs or services; requiring the director to attempt to access certain federal  
14 funds; requiring the director to submit a certain report to the Governor and General  
15 Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; requiring, for a certain  
16 fiscal year, the Governor to include in the State budget certain funding; providing  
17 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Breathe Easy Pilot  
18 Program.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article – Health – General  
21 Section 13–1701 through 13–1703  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

24 BY adding to  
25 Article – Health – General  
26 Section 13–1707  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 13–1701.

5 In this subtitle, “Program” means the Asthma Control Program.

6 13–1702.

7 There is an Asthma Control Program in the Department.

8 13–1703.

9 (a) The Secretary shall appoint a director for the Program.

10 (b) The director may establish advisory councils, task forces, committees, and  
11 work groups to the extent necessary to implement the Program.

12 **13–1707.**

13 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
14 **INDICATED.**

15 **(2) “DIRECTOR” MEANS THE DIRECTOR FOR THE PROGRAM.**

16 **(3) “ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD” MEANS A HOUSEHOLD LOCATED IN EAST**  
17 **BALTIMORE CITY THAT:**

18 **(i) HAS A HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN 150% OF**  
19 **THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; AND**

20 **(ii) INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF 14**  
21 **YEARS.**

22 **(4) “PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE BREATHE EASY PILOT**  
23 **PROGRAM.**

24 **(B) (1) IN COOPERATION WITH THE BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH**  
25 **DEPARTMENT AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GREEN AND HEALTHY HOMES**  
26 **INITIATIVE, THE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH THE BREATHE EASY PILOT**  
27 **PROGRAM.**

28 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE AND**

1 STUDY THE EFFECTS OF ASTHMA REMEDIATION SERVICES ON ELIGIBLE  
2 HOUSEHOLDS.

3 (3) ASTHMA REMEDIATION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PILOT  
4 PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE CLEANING, EDUCATION, STRUCTURAL INTERVENTIONS,  
5 AND ANY OTHER SERVICES THE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GREEN AND  
6 HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE DETERMINES TO BE NECESSARY.

7 (C) THE DIRECTOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GREEN AND HEALTHY  
8 HOMES INITIATIVE, SHALL:

9 (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2020, SELECT ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS TO  
10 PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM;

11 (2) PROVIDE PARTICIPATING ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS WITH ASTHMA  
12 REMEDIATION SERVICES; AND

13 (3) STUDY THE EFFECT THAT ASTHMA REMEDIATION SERVICES HAVE  
14 ON THE WELL-BEING OF MEMBERS OF PARTICIPATING ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS BY  
15 MEASURING, RELATIVE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE ASTHMA  
16 REMEDIATION SERVICES:

17 (I) HEALTH OUTCOMES;

18 (II) ECONOMIC OUTCOMES; AND

19 (III) EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN.

20 (D) IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS  
21 SECTION, THE DIRECTOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM, AT THE  
22 DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR:

23 (1) IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN THE  
24 BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE  
25 PILOT PROGRAM; AND

26 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF A BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
27 REFERRAL PROCESS OR INTEGRATED PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER LOCAL OR STATE  
28 AGENCIES THROUGH WHICH ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS MAY ACCESS PROGRAMS AND  
29 SERVICES THAT TARGET IMPROVED HEALTH.

30 (E) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE PILOT  
31 PROGRAM, THE DIRECTOR SHALL ATTEMPT TO ACCESS ANY FEDERAL FUNDS

1 RELATED TO ASTHMA REMEDIATION SERVICES FOR HOUSEHOLDS.

2 (F) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023, THE DIRECTOR SHALL  
3 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE  
4 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PILOT PROGRAM.

5 (2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
6 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

7 (I) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING  
8 IN THE PILOT PROGRAM;

9 (II) INFORMATION REGARDING HOW THE PILOT PROGRAM HAS  
10 AFFECTED THE HEALTH, ECONOMIC, AND EDUCATIONAL WELL-BEING OF THE  
11 MEMBERS OF PARTICIPATING ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS; AND

12 (III) A RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM  
13 SHOULD BE EXTENDED OR EXPANDED.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for fiscal year 2021, the  
15 Governor shall include in the State budget an appropriation of \$500,000 for the Breathe  
16 Easy Pilot Program established under § 13-1707 of the Health – General Article, as enacted  
17 by Section 1 of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2024,  
20 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
21 of no further force and effect.