

## Chapter 395

**(House Bill 607)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Trauma Fund – State Primary Adult Resource Center –  
Reimbursement of On-Call and Standby Costs**

FOR the purpose of altering the purpose of the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund to include subsidizing the documented costs incurred by the State primary adult resource center to maintain certain on-call and standby health care providers; requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to develop certain guidelines for the reimbursement of certain costs; and generally relating to reimbursement of on-call and standby costs incurred by the State primary adult resource center.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 19–130(a)(1) and (5)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 19–130(b) and (d)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

**Article – Health – General**

19–130.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(5) (i) “Trauma center” means a facility designated by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems as:

1. The State primary adult resource center;
2. A Level I trauma center;
3. A Level II trauma center;
4. A Level III trauma center;

5. A pediatric trauma center; or
6. The Maryland Trauma Specialty Referral Centers.

(ii) “Trauma center” includes an out-of-state pediatric trauma center that has entered into an agreement with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

(b) (1) There is a Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund.

(2) The purpose of the Fund is to subsidize the documented costs:

(i) Of uncompensated care incurred by a trauma physician in providing trauma care to a trauma patient on the State trauma registry;

(ii) Of undercompensated care incurred by a trauma physician in providing trauma care to an enrollee of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program who is a trauma patient on the State trauma registry;

(iii) Incurred by a trauma center to maintain trauma physicians on-call as required by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; **[and]**

**(IV) INCURRED BY THE STATE PRIMARY ADULT RESOURCE CENTER TO MAINTAIN TRAUMA SURGEONS, ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS, NEUROSURGEONS, AND ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ON-CALL AND ON STANDBY AS REQUIRED BY THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS; AND**

**[(iv)] (V)** Incurred by the Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission to administer the Fund and audit reimbursement requests to assure appropriate payments are made from the Fund.

(3) The Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission shall administer the Fund.

(4) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(5) Interest on and other income from the Fund shall be separately accounted for and credited to the Fund, and are not subject to § 6-226(a) of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(d) (1) Disbursements from the Fund shall be made in accordance with a

methodology established jointly by the Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission to calculate costs incurred by trauma physicians and trauma centers that are eligible to receive reimbursement under subsection (b) of this section.

(2) The Fund shall transfer to the Maryland Department of Health an amount sufficient to fully cover the State's share of expenditures for the costs of undercompensated care incurred by a trauma physician in providing trauma care to an enrollee of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program who is a trauma patient on the State trauma registry.

(3) The methodology developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

(i) Take into account:

1. The amount of uncompensated care provided by trauma physicians;

2. The amount of undercompensated care attributable to the treatment of Medicaid enrollees in trauma centers;

3. The cost of maintaining trauma physicians on-call;

4. The number of patients served by trauma physicians in trauma centers;

5. The number of Maryland residents served by trauma physicians in trauma centers; and

6. The extent to which trauma-related costs are otherwise subsidized by hospitals, the federal government, and other sources; and

(ii) Include an incentive to encourage hospitals to continue to subsidize trauma-related costs not otherwise included in hospital rates.

(4) The methodology developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall use the following parameters to determine the amount of reimbursement made to trauma physicians and trauma centers from the Fund:

(i) 1. The cost incurred by a Level II trauma center to maintain trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, and neurosurgeons on-call shall be reimbursed:

A. At a rate of up to 30% of the reasonable cost equivalents hourly rate for the specialty, inflated to the current year by the physician compensation component of the Medicare economic index as designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

B. For the minimum number of trauma physicians required to be on-call, as specified by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in its criteria for Level II trauma centers;

2. The cost incurred by a Level III trauma center to maintain trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, and anesthesiologists on-call shall be reimbursed:

A. At a rate of up to 35% of the reasonable cost equivalents hourly rate for the specialty, inflated to the current year by the physician compensation component of the Medicare economic index as designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

B. For the minimum number of trauma physicians required to be on-call, as specified by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in its criteria for Level III trauma centers;

3. The cost incurred by a Level I trauma center or pediatric trauma center to maintain trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, and neurosurgeons on-call when a post-graduate resident is attending in the trauma center shall be reimbursed:

A. At a rate of up to 30% of the reasonable cost equivalents hourly rate for the specialty, inflated to the current year by the physician compensation component of the Medicare economic index as designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

B. When a post-graduate resident is permitted to be in the trauma center, as specified by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in its criteria for Level I trauma centers or pediatric trauma centers;

4. The cost incurred by a Maryland Trauma Specialty Referral Center to maintain trauma surgeons on-call in the specialty of the Center when a post-graduate resident is attending in the Center shall be reimbursed:

A. At a rate of up to 30% of the reasonable cost equivalents hourly rate for the specialty, inflated to the current year by the physician compensation component of the Medicare economic index as designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

B. When a post-graduate resident is permitted to be in the Center, as specified by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in its criteria for a Maryland Trauma Specialty Referral Center; and

5. A. A Level II trauma center is eligible for a maximum

of 24,500 hours of trauma on-call per year;

B. A Level III trauma center is eligible for a maximum of 35,040 hours of trauma on-call per year;

C. A Level I trauma center shall be eligible for a maximum of 4,380 hours of trauma on-call per year;

D. A pediatric trauma center shall be eligible for a maximum of 4,380 hours of trauma on-call per year; and

E. A Maryland Trauma Specialty Referral Center shall be eligible for a maximum of 2,190 hours of trauma on-call per year;

(ii) The cost of undercompensated care incurred by a trauma physician in providing trauma care to enrollees of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program who are trauma patients on the State trauma registry shall be reimbursed at a rate of up to 100% of the Medicare payment for the service, minus any amount paid by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(iii) The cost of uncompensated care incurred by a trauma physician in providing trauma care to trauma patients on the State trauma registry shall be reimbursed at a rate of 100% of the Medicare payment for the service, minus any recoveries made by the trauma physician for the care;

(iv) The Commission, in consultation with the Health Services Cost Review Commission, may establish a payment rate for uncompensated care incurred by a trauma physician in providing trauma care to trauma patients on the State trauma registry that is above 100% of the Medicare payment for the service if:

1. The Commission determines that increasing the payment rate above 100% of the Medicare payment for the service will address an unmet need in the State trauma system; and

2. The Commission reports on its intention to increase the payment rate to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, at least 60 days before any adjustment to the rate; [and]

**(v) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE DOCUMENTED COSTS OF THE STATE PRIMARY ADULT RESOURCE CENTER UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(2)(IV) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

**[(v)] (vi)** The total reimbursement to emergency physicians from the Fund may not exceed \$300,000 annually.

(5) In order to receive reimbursement, a trauma physician in the case of costs of uncompensated care under subsection (b)(2)(i) of this section, or a trauma center in the case of on-call costs under subsection (b)(2)(iii) of this section, shall apply to the Fund on a form and in a manner approved by the Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

(6) (i) The Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission shall adopt regulations that specify the information that trauma physicians and trauma centers must submit to receive money from the Fund.

(ii) The information required shall include:

1. The name and federal tax identification number of the trauma physician rendering the service;
2. The date of the service;
3. Appropriate codes describing the service;
4. Any amount recovered for the service rendered;
5. The name of the trauma patient;
6. The patient's trauma registry number; and
7. Any other information the Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission consider necessary to disburse money from the Fund.

(iii) It is the intent of the General Assembly that trauma physicians and trauma centers shall cooperate with the Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission by providing information required under this paragraph in a timely and complete manner.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

**Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.**