

SENATE BILL 565

J1, J2

(11r1621)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Health and Government
Operations* —

Introduced by **Senators Griffith, Eckardt, Elfreth, Augustine, Lam, and Ellis**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision of law requiring the Maryland Office of
4 Minority Health and Health Disparities to collaborate with the Maryland Health
5 Care Commission to publish and provide a certain report card to require the Office
6 to also collaborate with certain health occupations boards; requiring the report card
7 to include the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals who hold a certain
8 license or certificate, rather than only physicians; *requiring the report card to include*
9 *a comparison of certain information*; requiring the Office to respond to certain
10 requests within a certain period of time to the extent authorized under certain laws;
11 requiring the Director of the Office to meet with certain representatives at least
12 annually to examine the collection of certain data and identify certain changes;
13 requiring certain health occupations boards to include a certain option on a certain
14 form and to encourage an applicant to provide certain information; requiring the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Office, in coordination with the Maryland Health Care Commission and the
2 Maryland Department of Health, to establish, submit to the General Assembly, and
3 implement a certain plan on or before a certain date; requiring the Office, in
4 coordination with the Commission and the Maryland Department of Health, to
5 submit to the General Assembly a certain plan on or before a certain date; and
6 generally relating to public health data and race and ethnicity information.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health – General
9 Section 20–1004 and 20–1005
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Health Occupations
14 Section 1–225
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 20–1004.

21 The Office shall:

22 (1) Be an advocate for the improvement of minority health care by working
23 with the Department on its own, or in partnership with other public and private entities to
24 establish appropriate forums, programs, or initiatives designed to educate the public
25 regarding minority health and health disparities issues, with an emphasis on preventive
26 health and healthy lifestyles;

27 (2) Assist the Secretary in identifying, coordinating, and establishing
28 priorities for programs, services, and resources that the State should provide for minority
29 health and health disparities issues;

30 (3) Collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information and data
31 collected or compiled by:

32 (i) The Department;

33 (ii) The Department in collaboration with others; and

34 (iii) Other public and private entities;

1 (4) Research innovative methods and obtain resources to improve existing
2 data systems to ensure that the health information that is collected includes specific race
3 and ethnicity identifiers;

4 (5) Serve as a clearinghouse and resource library for information about
5 minority health and health disparities data, strategies, services, and programs that
6 address minority health and health disparities issues;

7 (6) Develop a strategic plan to improve public services and programs
8 targeting minorities;

9 (7) Obtain funding and, contingent upon funding, provide grants to
10 community-based organizations and historically black colleges and universities to conduct
11 special research, demonstration, and evaluation projects for targeted at-risk racial and
12 ethnic minority populations and to support ongoing community-based programs that are
13 designed to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the State;

14 (8) Develop criteria for the awarding of grants for programs that are
15 designed to improve minority health care;

16 (9) Review existing laws and regulations to ensure that they facilitate the
17 provision of adequate health care to the minorities of this State;

18 (10) Recommend to the Secretary any additions or changes to existing laws
19 and regulations designed to facilitate the adequate provision of health care to minorities in
20 this State;

21 (11) Identify and review health promotion and disease prevention strategies
22 relating to the leading health causes of death and disability among minority populations;

23 (12) Develop and implement model public and private partnerships in racial
24 and ethnic minority communities for health awareness campaigns and to improve the
25 access, acceptability, and use of public health services;

26 (13) Develop recommendations for the most effective means of providing
27 outreach to racial and ethnic minority communities throughout the State to ensure their
28 maximum participation in publicly funded health benefits programs;

29 (14) Develop a statewide plan for increasing the number of racial and ethnic
30 minority health care professionals which includes recommendations for the financing
31 mechanisms and recruitment strategies necessary to carry out the plan;

32 (15) Work collaboratively with universities and colleges of medicine,
33 nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, social work, public health, and allied health in this State and
34 other health care professional training programs to develop courses with cultural
35 competency, sensitivity, and health literacy, that are designed to address the problem of

1 racial and ethnic disparities in health care access, utilization, treatment decisions, quality,
2 and outcomes;

3 (16) Work collaboratively with the Maryland Health Care Disparities
4 Initiative, the Morgan–Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, the University of
5 Maryland Disparity Project, the Monumental City Medical Society, faculty and researchers
6 at historically black colleges and universities, and other existing alliances or plans, to
7 reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the State;

8 (17) Seek to establish a statewide alliance with community–based agencies
9 and organizations, historically black colleges and universities, health care facilities, health
10 care provider organizations, managed care organizations, and pharmaceutical
11 manufacturers to promote the objectives of the Office;

12 (18) Evaluate multicultural or racial and ethnic minority health programs
13 in other states to assess their efficacy and potential for replication in this State and make
14 recommendations regarding the adoption of such programs, as appropriate;

15 (19) Apply for and accept any grant of money from the federal government,
16 private foundations, or other sources which may be available for programs related to
17 minority health and health disparities;

18 (20) Serve as the designated State agency for receipt of federal funds
19 specifically designated for minority health and health disparities programs;

20 (21) Work collaboratively with the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and
21 Women Business Affairs as the Office determines necessary; [and]

22 (22) In collaboration with the Maryland Health Care Commission **AND THE**
23 **HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS**
24 **ARTICLE**, publish annually on the Department’s website and provide in writing on request
25 a “Health Care Disparities Policy Report Card” that includes:

26 (i) An analysis of racial and ethnic variations in insurance coverage
27 for low–income, nonelderly individuals;

28 (ii) The racial and ethnic composition of the [physician population]
29 **INDIVIDUALS WHO HOLD A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A HEALTH**
30 **OCCUPATIONS BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE**
31 compared to the racial and ethnic composition of the State’s population; and

32 (iii) The racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates
33 for cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, asthma, and other
34 diseases identified by the Maryland Health Care Commission; **AND**

1 (IV) A COMPARISON OF THE INFORMATION INCLUDED UNDER
 2 ITEMS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH WITH PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED “HEALTH
 3 CARE DISPARITIES POLICY REPORT CARDS” INCLUDING THE SAME INFORMATION;
 4 AND

5 (23) TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE
 6 PRIVACY LAWS, RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR HEALTH DATA THAT INCLUDES RACE
 7 AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST.

8 20–1005.

9 Subject to the limitations of any law that governs the activities of other units of the
 10 Executive Branch of State government, the Director shall:

11 (1) Promote health and the prevention of disease among members of
 12 minority groups;

13 (2) Distribute grants from available federal and special funds to
 14 community–based health groups to be used to promote health and the prevention of disease
 15 among members of minority groups; [and]

16 (3) Fund projects which are innovative, culturally sensitive, and specific in
 17 their approach toward reduction of the incidence and severity of those diseases or
 18 conditions which are responsible for excess morbidity and mortality in minority
 19 populations; AND

20 (4) MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MARYLAND HEALTH
 21 CARE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST ANNUALLY TO:

22 (I) EXAMINE THE COLLECTION OF HEALTH DATA THAT
 23 INCLUDES RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION IN THE STATE; AND

24 (II) IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH
 25 DATA THAT INCLUDES RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION THAT IS ACCESSIBLE BY
 26 THE OFFICE.

27 **Article – Health Occupations**

28 **1–225.**

29 EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE A LICENSE OR
 30 CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL:

31 (1) INCLUDE ON THE FORM FOR AN APPLICATION FOR THE LICENSE
 32 OR CERTIFICATE OR A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE RENEWAL AN OPTION FOR THE

1 APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE APPLICANT’S RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION;
2 AND

3 (2) ENCOURAGE AN APPLICANT TO PROVIDE RACE AND ETHNICITY
4 INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2022,
6 the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities shall, in coordination with
7 the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Department of Health, establish,
8 submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government
9 Article, and implement a plan for:

10 (1) improving the collection of health data that includes race and ethnicity
11 information in the State;

12 (2) ensuring that the Office has access to up-to-date health data that
13 includes race and ethnicity information;

14 (3) to the extent authorized under federal and State privacy laws, posting
15 health data that includes race and ethnicity information on the Office’s website; and

16 (4) updating the data on the Office’s website at least once every 6 months.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,
18 2021, the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities shall, in coordination
19 with the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Department of Health,
20 submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government
21 Article, a plan that reflects the State’s current goals and implementations to eliminate
22 minority health disparities.

23 SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.