

Chapter 464

(Senate Bill 636)

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Department of Health – Waiver Programs – Waitlist and Registry
Reduction
(End the Wait Act)**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop ~~a plan~~ plans to reduce the waitlist or registry for certain waiver programs by a certain percentage beginning in a certain fiscal year; and generally relating to waiver programs administered by the Maryland Department of Health.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General
Section 15–150
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

15–150.

(A) (1) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP ~~A PLAN~~ PLANS TO REDUCE THE WAITLISTS FOR THE FOLLOWING WAIVER PROGRAMS BY 50%, BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024:

- ~~(I)~~ **1. THE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS WAIVER;**
- ~~(II)~~ **2. THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WAIVER;**
- ~~(III)~~ **3. THE FAMILY SUPPORTS WAIVER;**
- ~~(IV)~~ **4. THE BRAIN INJURY WAIVER;**
- ~~(V)~~ **5. THE HOME– AND COMMUNITY–BASED OPTIONS
WAIVER;**
- ~~(VI)~~ **6. THE MEDICAL DAY CARE SERVICES WAIVER; AND**

~~(VII)~~ **7. THE MODEL WAIVER FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN; AND**

~~(VIII)~~ **~~THE AUTISM WAIVER.~~**

(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO REDUCE THE REGISTRY FOR THE AUTISM WAIVER THAT INCLUDES CONDUCTING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ON THE REGISTRY AND, BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024, PROVIDING SERVICES TO AT LEAST 50% OF INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED ELIGIBLE.

(2) THE ~~PLAN~~ PLANS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER EACH WAIVER PROGRAM NEEDS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN NEW PROVIDERS;

~~(II)~~ (II) MEASURES TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN PROVIDERS FOR EACH WAIVER PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE CAPACITY OF THE PROGRAMS;

~~(III)~~ (III) ANY CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT RATES NEEDED TO ENSURE PROVIDER CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE WAIVER PROGRAMS;

(IV) THE EXPECTED TIME FRAME FOR CONDUCTING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR THE AUTISM WAIVER;

~~(V)~~ (V) THE EXPECTED TIME FRAME FOR REDUCING THE WAITLIST OR REGISTRY FOR EACH WAIVER PROGRAM BY 50%; AND

~~(VI)~~ (VI) THE PROJECTED COST OF THE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE ~~PLAN~~ PLANS.

(3) PROVISIONS OF THE ~~PLAN~~ PLANS RELATING TO THE AUTISM WAIVER SHALL BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT THE ~~PLAN~~ PLANS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

(C) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.