

HOUSE BILL 1188

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By: **Delegates Patterson, Crutchfield, Henson, Howell, R. Jones, Kaiser, and McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Sickle Cell Disease and Trait – Information for Individuals and**
3 **Health Care Practitioners**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish and
5 implement a system of providing information on the sickle cell trait or the
6 thalassemia trait to certain individuals; requiring the Department to maintain on
7 its website a certain list of resources for health care practitioners and establish a
8 plan for updating its website to meet certain requirements; requiring the State Board
9 of Nursing and the State Board of Physicians to include certain information related
10 to the list of resources in the renewal notices sent to licensees; and generally relating
11 to information for individuals and health care practitioners on sickle cell disease and
12 trait.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 18–508 and 18–509
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Article – Health Occupations
20 Section 8–312(b) and 14–316(b)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

25 **Article – Health – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **18-508.**

2 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF
3 PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR THE THALASSEMIA TRAIT
4 TO:

5 (1) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR THE
6 THALASSEMIA TRAIT, INCLUDING AS DETERMINED THROUGH A NEWBORN
7 SCREENING UNDER § 18-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

8 (2) IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS A MINOR, THE INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY.

9 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN THE
10 INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION:

11 (1) HOW THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR THE THALASSEMIA TRAIT
12 IMPACTS THE HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH THE TRAIT; AND

13 (2) HOW THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT OR THE THALASSEMIA TRAIT IS
14 PASSED FROM A PARENT TO A CHILD.

15 **18-509.**

16 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON ITS
17 WEBSITE A LIST OF RESOURCES FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS TO USE TO
18 IMPROVE THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND CLINICAL TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS
19 WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE OR THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT, INCLUDING INFORMATION
20 ON THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CARRYING THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT.

21 **Article – Health Occupations**

22 **8-312.**

23 (b) (1) At least 3 months before a license expires, the Board shall send to the
24 licensee a renewal notice by:

25 (i) First-class mail to the last known mailing address of the
26 licensee; or

27 (ii) Electronic means to the last known electronic address of the
28 licensee.

29 (2) THE RENEWAL NOTICE SENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
30 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A NOTICE TO THE LICENSEE THAT:

1 **(I) THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS ON ITS WEBSITE**
2 **INFORMATION ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT; AND**

3 **(II) INCLUDES THE ADDRESS OF THE WEBPAGE ON THE**
4 **WEBSITE ON WHICH THE INFORMATION IS MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
5 **18-509 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

6 **[(2)] (3)** If a licensee is required to have a criminal history records check
7 before a license may be renewed, the Board shall send the licensee the documents necessary
8 for initiating the criminal history records check in conjunction with the renewal notice
9 required under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

10 14-316.

11 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, at least 1 month before the
12 license expires, the Board shall send to the licensee, by electronic or first-class mail to the
13 last known electronic or physical address of the licensee:

14 (i) A renewal notice that states:

- 15 1. The date on which the current license expires;
- 16 2. The date by which the renewal application must be
17 received by the Board for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires;
18 and
- 19 3. The amount of the renewal fee; [and]

20 (ii) A blank panel data sheet supplied by the Health Care
21 Alternative Dispute Resolution Office; AND

22 **(III) A NOTICE TO THE LICENSEE THAT:**

23 **1. THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS ON ITS WEBSITE**
24 **INFORMATION ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT; AND**

25 **2. INCLUDES THE ADDRESS OF THE WEBPAGE ON THE**
26 **WEBSITE ON WHICH THE INFORMATION IS MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
27 **18-509 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

28 (2) If the Board chooses to send renewal notices exclusively by electronic
29 mail under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board shall send a renewal notice by
30 first-class mail to a licensee on request of the licensee.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before April 1, 2023,
2 the Maryland Department of Health shall establish a plan to update its website to reflect
3 the information required under § 18–509 of the Health – General Article, as enacted by
4 Section 1 of this Act, including a timeline for when the updates will be available on the
5 website.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2022.