

HOUSE BILL 1389

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CF SB 700

By: ~~Delegate Bagnall~~ **Delegates Bagnall, Belcastro, Bhandari, Carr, Cullison, Hill, Johnson, Kaiser, Kelly, Kerr, Landis, R. Lewis, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Rosenberg, Saab, Sample-Hughes, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2022

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Health and Government Operations, March 5, 2022

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care**
3 **Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health to establish the Prevent Workplace
5 Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup to develop
6 a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence in health care
7 settings and to create a plan for implementing the campaign; and generally relating
8 to the Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness
9 Campaign Workgroup.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration,
12 approximately 75% of the workplace assaults reported annually occurred in health care
13 settings; and

14 WHEREAS, Workers in health care settings are four times more likely to be victims
15 of workplace violence than workers in other settings; and

16 WHEREAS, Violence-related injuries are four times more likely to cause health care
17 workers to take time off from work than other kinds of injuries; and

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.



1 WHEREAS, Alarminglly, the actual number of violent incidents involving health care
2 is much likely higher than reported, because episodes of workplace violence are grossly
3 underreported; and

4 WHEREAS, The experience of workplace violence has not only physical
5 consequences, but personal, emotional, and professional consequences as well; and

6 WHEREAS, Hospitals and health care providers are actively working to prevent
7 workplace violence with electronic systems for reporting and tracking incidences of
8 workplace violence, implementing zero tolerance policies, providing training on
9 de-escalation techniques, increasing security, and disseminating personal wearable safety
10 alarms; and

11 WHEREAS, While health care providers were lauded as health care heroes and
12 celebrated at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, today they are experiencing an
13 alarming rise in violence in the workplace; and

14 WHEREAS, The increase in workplace violence is contributing to the burnout of
15 health care professionals who are leaving the profession or changing practice locations; and

16 WHEREAS, Having an increased public awareness of the magnitude of and
17 consequences associated with workplace violence in health care settings would help combat
18 this phenomenon; now, therefore,

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That:

21 (a) (1) The Secretary of Health shall establish a Prevent Workplace Violence
22 in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup.

23 (2) The Workgroup shall include the following members, appointed by the
24 Secretary:

25 (i) at least one licensed health care provider, including a provider
26 who has experienced workplace violence;

27 (ii) at least one individual who works in a hospital;

28 (iii) at least one individual who works in a nursing home;

29 (iv) at least one public communications professional;

30 (v) at least one individual who works in a facility that provides
31 mental health services;

32 (vi) at least one individual who works in a facility that provides
33 treatment for substance abuse disorders;

1 ~~(vii) at least one individual who works in a facility that provides~~
2 ~~health care services to individuals with disabilities;~~

3 ~~(viii)~~ (vii) at least one representative who works to provide security
4 services at a health care facility; ~~and~~

5 (viii) one representative from the Maryland State's Attorneys'
6 Association; and

7 (ix) any other representative that the Secretary determines
8 necessary.

9 (b) The Workgroup shall:

10 (1) develop a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence
11 in health care settings to:

12 (i) provide the public with information on:

13 1. the magnitude of incidences of workplace violence in
14 health care settings in the State; and

15 2. the consequences of workplace violence in health care
16 settings in the State; and

17 (ii) urge the public to respect the State's health care providers and
18 protect the State's health care providers from workplace violence;

19 (2) recognize and accommodate the needs of patients with mental health
20 disorders, and substance abuse disorders, ~~and disabilities~~ in the development of the
21 campaign; and

22 (3) create a plan for implementing the public awareness campaign,
23 including distributing information on workplace violence in a health care setting in the
24 State.

25 (c) On or before November 1, 2022, the Workgroup shall report to the Senate
26 Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in
27 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the public awareness
28 campaign developed under subsection (b) of this section.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
30 1, 2022.