

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled**

Senate Bill 734

(Senator Lam)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Maryland Health Care Commission - Primary Care Report and Workgroup**

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This bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), by December 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to provide a report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report must include (1) an analysis of primary care investment over the immediately preceding year, including data stratified by zip code and county, in relation to total health care spending over the previous year; (2) ways to improve the quality of and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity, reducing health care disparities, and avoiding increased costs; and (3) any findings and recommendations. MHCC must form a workgroup that includes specified stakeholders to develop the report, including by interpreting the results of the required analysis and making the recommendations. MHCC must also establish a plan for the analysis and report after receiving input and agreement from workgroup participants and provide the plan to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2023.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MHCC can form a workgroup, provide a plan, and complete annual reports with existing budgeted resources. Other State entities can participate in the workgroup with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** MHCC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health with a mission to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision making,

increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policymakers, purchasers, providers, and the public.

The Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP), part of Maryland's Total Cost of Care model, is intended to support Maryland's statewide health transformation with the goal of building a strong, effective primary care delivery system, inclusive of medical, behavioral, and social needs. MDPCP is a voluntary program open to all qualifying Maryland primary care providers that provides funding and support for the delivery of advanced primary care. The advanced primary care model includes targeted care management, behavioral health integration, screening and referrals for unmet social needs, and continuous, data-driven quality improvement. According to MDPCP's [2020 annual report](#), 476 primary care practices comprising more than 2,000 providers participated in the program in 2020.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2022  
km/ljm Third Reader - March 29, 2022  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 29, 2022  
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