
By: **Delegate Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Practitioners - Single Source Credentials Verification**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct a
4 study on the feasibility of the development of a single source for credentials
5 verification of health care professionals; including certain provisions in the
6 study; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to
7 certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
8 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a credentials
9 verification system for health care professionals.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Health - General

12 Section 19-121.1

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 19-121.1.

19 (A) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED AND AFFECTED
20 PARTIES, SHALL STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE STATE
21 SYSTEM FOR CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION OF ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS
22 LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE
23 SERVICES IN THE STATE.

24 (B) THE COMMISSION, IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY, SHALL ENSURE THAT THE
25 FOLLOWING PROVISIONS BE INCLUDED WITH RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
26 SINGLE SOURCE FOR CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE
27 PROFESSIONALS:

28 (1) THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM BY A SINGLE STATE AGENCY;

1 (2) THE MANDATORY USE OF A SYSTEM BY ALL HEALTH CARE
2 PRACTITIONERS WHO MUST BE CREDENTIALLED FOR ANY PURPOSE IN THE STATE;

3 (3) THE MANDATORY USE OF A SINGLE VERIFICATION SYSTEM BY ANY
4 HEALTH CARE FACILITY, INSURER, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN, HEALTH
5 MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER ENTITY REQUIRED TO CREDENTIAL
6 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS IN THE STATE;

7 (4) THE UTILIZATION OF A CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION PROCESS THAT
8 MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF
9 HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY
10 ASSURANCE, AND APPLICABLE PROVISIONS IN FEDERAL AND STATE LAW; AND

11 (5) THE IMPOSITION OF A USER FEE FUNDING MECHANISM THAT
12 RESULTS IN BUDGET NEUTRALITY.

13 (C) (1) AS PART OF THE STUDY, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE
14 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT A SINGLE
15 STATE CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

16 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND
17 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE STATE CREDENTIALS
18 VERIFICATION SYSTEM TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE
19 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2001, IN
20 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 June 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
23 December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
24 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.