
By: **Delegate Klausmeier**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 17, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Practitioners - Single Source System for Credentials**
3 **Verification**

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

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 19-121.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

20 **Article - Health - General**

21 19-121.1.

22 (A) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED AND AFFECTED
23 PARTIES, SHALL STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT

1 OF A SINGLE STATE SOURCE SYSTEM FOR CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION OF ALL
2 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED
3 TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE STATE FOR USE BY A HEALTH CARE
4 FACILITY, INSURER, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN, DENTAL PLAN,
5 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION, OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION
6 REQUIRED TO CREDENTIAL A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER IN THE STATE.

7 (B) IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
8 SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE:

9 (1) THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY REQUIRED FOR CREDENTIALS
10 VERIFICATION BY A HEALTH CARE FACILITY, INSURER, NONPROFIT HEALTH
11 SERVICE PLAN, DENTAL PLAN, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION, OR HEALTH
12 MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE;

13 (2) THE METHODS OF CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION USED BY FEDERAL
14 AGENCIES, STATE AGENCIES, AND NATIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS;

15 (3) WHETHER COMMON ITEMS CAN BE USED TO CREDENTIAL ALL
16 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS;

17 (4) THE TYPE OF INFORMATION TO BE REQUIRED ON A UNIFORM
18 CREDENTIALING FORM;

19 (5) WHETHER A SINGLE SOURCE CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION SYSTEM
20 WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS;

21 (6) WHETHER THE USE OF A SINGLE SOURCE CREDENTIALS
22 VERIFICATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE MANDATORY FOR HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS
23 AND ENTITIES THAT CREDENTIAL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS;

24 (7) THE FEASIBILITY OF A SINGLE STATE AGENCY ADMINISTERING A
25 SINGLE SOURCE CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION SYSTEM; AND

26 (8) METHODS OF FINANCING A SINGLE SOURCE CREDENTIALS
27 VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

28 (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE AUTHORITY OF THE HEALTH
29 OCCUPATIONS BOARDS UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE TO REGULATE
30 HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS.

31 (D) THE COMMISSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
32 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, SHALL ISSUE A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS TO
33 THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
34 COMMITTEE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2001, AND A FINAL REPORT ON OR
35 BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2002.

36 (B) ~~THE COMMISSION, IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY, SHALL ENSURE THAT THE~~
37 ~~FOLLOWING PROVISIONS BE INCLUDED WITH RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A~~

1 ~~SINGLE SOURCE FOR CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE~~
2 ~~PROFESSIONALS:~~

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

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

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

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

14 (5) ~~THE IMPOSITION OF A USER FEE FUNDING MECHANISM THAT~~
15 ~~RESULTS IN BUDGET NEUTRALITY.~~

16 (C) (1) ~~AS PART OF THE STUDY, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE~~
17 ~~FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT A SINGLE~~
18 ~~STATE CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION SYSTEM.~~

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

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 June 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the
26 end of December 31, ~~2001~~ 2002, with no further action required by the General
27 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.