
By: **Delegate Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Renal Dialysis Treatments - Transportation Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Kidney Disease Program to provide assistance
4 with transportation to and from renal dialysis treatments for end-stage renal
5 dialysis patients who are certified patients in the Program or apply to the
6 Program for assistance; requiring the Program to use moneys in the Kidney
7 Disease Fund to purchase certain vehicles and employ certain individuals;
8 requiring the Program to give preferences to certain individuals; requiring the
9 State Commission on Kidney Disease to adopt regulations to implement this
10 Act; exempting certain applicants for transportation assistance from a provision
11 of law requiring Program recipients to apply for medical assistance; requiring
12 the Program to report to the Governor and the General Assembly the impact and
13 costs of this Act; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
14 to transportation assistance for end-stage renal dialysis patients.

15 BY adding to
16 Article - Health - General
17 Section 13-314.1
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2000 Replacement Volume)

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, End-stage renal dialysis patients have to endure renal dialysis
22 treatments three days each week; and

23 WHEREAS, Nonemergency transportation to and from renal dialysis
24 treatments is a challenge, especially for those who require bed-to-bed, rather than
25 curbside, transportation; and

26 WHEREAS, Many end-stage renal dialysis patients are blind or have had
27 amputations; and

28 WHEREAS, Many end-stage renal dialysis patients lack the financial resources
29 to afford transportation to treatment; and

1 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that, in Baltimore City alone, over 300
2 end-stage renal dialysis patients each day use transportation services; and

3 WHEREAS, Of those 300 patients, one-half are special needs patients who
4 require round-trip transportation three times every week; and

5 WHEREAS, Only one-third of these patients qualify for medical assistance;
6 now, therefore,

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

9 **Article - Health - General**

10 13-314.1.

11 (A) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002, THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE
12 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE FOR PROGRAM RECIPIENTS AND OTHER
13 INDIVIDUALS WHO:

14 (1) ARE END-STAGE RENAL DIALYSIS PATIENTS; AND

15 (2) APPLY TO THE PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE TO OR
16 FROM RENAL DIALYSIS TREATMENTS.

17 (B) TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE
18 DEPARTMENT SHALL USE MONEYS IN THE FUND TO:

19 (1) PURCHASE NOT FEWER THAN TWO MULTIPASSENGER VEHICLES TO
20 TRANSPORT RENAL DIALYSIS PATIENTS NEEDING TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE;

21 (2) EMPLOY NOT FEWER THAN TWO DRIVERS TO DRIVE THE
22 MULTIPASSENGER VEHICLES; AND

23 (3) EMPLOY NOT FEWER THAN ONE PATIENT AIDE FOR EACH
24 MULTIPASSENGER VEHICLE USED.

25 (C) IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE PROGRAM SHALL
26 GIVE PREFERENCE TO END-STAGE RENAL DIALYSIS PATIENTS WHO:

27 (1) ARE VISION-IMPAIRED;

28 (2) HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS; OR

29 (3) LACK ONE OR MORE FUNCTIONING LIMBS.

30 (D) THE PROVISIONS OF § 13-312 OF THIS SUBTITLE DO NOT APPLY TO
31 INDIVIDUALS APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION WHO ARE NOT
32 OTHERWISE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS.

1 (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
2 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Commission on
4 Kidney Disease shall report annually to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
5 State Government Article, to the appropriate committees of the General Assembly on
6 the impact of this Act and the cost to the Kidney Disease Program and the Kidney
7 Disease Fund of providing the transportation assistance required under this Act.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of
10 September 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
11 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.