

SENATE BILL 684

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2001 Regular Session  
1r2384  
CF 1r2385

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By: **Senator Dorman**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001

Assigned to: Finance

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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.