

CHAPTER 613

(Senate Bill 682)

AN ACT concerning

Medical Assistance Program – Long-Term Care Eligibility – Consolidation Plan

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources, in consultation with certain groups, to develop a certain plan; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Medical Assistance Program and eligibility for long-term care services.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) (1) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources, in consultation with LifeSpan Network and the Health Facilities Association of Maryland, shall develop a plan to integrate the functions necessary for the determination of Medical Assistance Program eligibility for long-term care services.

(2) The plan conducted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

(i) transfer the workforce employed by the Department of Human Resources, including the local departments of social services, who determine long-term care Medical Assistance Program eligibility to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(ii) create uniform procedures, guidelines, and forms to be utilized by all employees in the determination of long-term care Medical Assistance Program eligibility; ~~and~~

(iii) streamline regulations, policies, and procedures related to the application for long-term care Medical Assistance Program services, including considering whether the face-to-face interview required under § 10.09.24.04 of the Code of Maryland Regulations should be eliminated for long-term care eligibility determinations; and

(iv) consider creating a financial and technical resource center for assisting caseworkers in determining long-term care eligibility.

(b) On or before ~~November~~ October 1, 2008, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Human Resources shall submit a report on the implementation of the plan required under subsection (a) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2008.