

SENATE BILL 635

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CF 9lr2059

By: **Senators Della, Garagiola, and Klausmeier**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Uniform Statewide Transportation**
3 **System for Nonemergency Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 develop and implement a certain uniform statewide transportation system for
6 certain Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients; requiring the
7 transportation system to be operated by a single entity that responds directly to
8 the Department; requiring the Department to select an entity to operate the
9 transportation system through a competitive bid process on or before a certain
10 date; requiring the Department to use funds generated from efficiencies
11 resulting from the creation of the transportation system for certain purposes;
12 and generally relating to transportation for Maryland Medical Assistance
13 Program recipients.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Health – General
16 Section 1–101(c) and 15–101(h)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Health – General
21 Section 15–146
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Health – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1-101.

2 (c) "Department" means the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

3 15-101.

4 (h) "Program" means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

5 **15-146.**

6 (A) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE**
7 **UNIFORM TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR**
8 **PROGRAM RECIPIENTS THAT DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION TO**
9 **NONEMERGENCY COVERED SERVICES.**

10 (B) **THE STATEWIDE UNIFORM TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SHALL BE**
11 **OPERATED BY A SINGLE ENTITY THAT RESPONDS DIRECTLY TO THE**
12 **DEPARTMENT.**

13 (C) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT AN ENTITY TO OPERATE THE**
14 **STATEWIDE UNIFORM TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**
15 **THROUGH A COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of
17 Health and Mental Hygiene shall use any funds generated from efficiencies resulting
18 from the creation of a statewide uniform transportation system under this Act for:

19 (a) raising reimbursement to nursing homes under the Maryland Medical
20 Assistance Program; and

21 (b) raising the level of funding to local health departments.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2009.