

SENATE BILL 592

J1, J2

4lr2288

By: **Senator Jones–Rodwell**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Community Health Workers –**
3 **Certification and Reimbursement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt
5 regulations, on or before a certain date, that establish certification criteria and
6 reimbursement and payment policies for community health workers; requiring
7 the Department, if applicable, to receive certain approval from the federal
8 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; requiring the Department and the
9 Maryland Insurance Administration to establish a certain stakeholder
10 workgroup; requiring the workgroup to conduct a certain study and make
11 certain recommendations; requiring the workgroup to report its findings and
12 recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a
13 certain date; and generally relating to community health workers.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Health – General
16 Section 15–101(a) and (h)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Health – General
21 Section 15–148
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 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 15-101.

2 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

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

4 15-148.

5 (A) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2015, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT
6 REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:

7 (1) CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
8 AS NONCLINICAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND

9 (2) PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT AND PAYMENT POLICIES FOR
10 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

11 (B) THE CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
12 UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL REQUIRE:

13 (1) RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE FROM A COMMUNITY HEALTH
14 WORKER CURRICULUM PROGRAM THAT IS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT; OR

15 (2) COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CORE
16 COMPETENCIES THAT INCLUDE AN INITIAL 80 HOURS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING
17 AND 20 COMBINED HOURS OF CONTINUED EDUCATION EVERY 2 YEARS IN THE
18 FOLLOWING AREAS:

19 (I) THE COMMUNITY HEALTH ROLE;

20 (II) ORGANIZATION AND RESOURCES;

21 (III) LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES;

22 (IV) COORDINATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND REPORTING;

23 (V) COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND CULTURAL
24 COMPETENCE;

25 (VI) THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER IN
26 HEALTH PROMOTION;

27 (VII) ACCESSING MEDICATIONS AND CARE RESOURCES;

1 **(VIII) ADHERENCE TO TREATMENT BY NONCOMPLIANT**
2 **PATIENTS;**

3 **(IX) PERSONAL CARE AND STRESS;**

4 **(X) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SKILLS; AND**

5 **(XI) CORE DISEASE AND HEALTH ISSUE TRAINING.**

6 **(C) IF APPLICABLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEEK ANY APPROVAL**
7 **NECESSARY FROM THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID**
8 **SERVICES TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO REIMBURSE COMMUNITY**
9 **HEALTH WORKERS FOR PROVIDING PREVENTIVE SERVICES.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

11 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland
12 Insurance Administration shall establish a stakeholder workgroup on workforce
13 development for community health workers.

14 (b) The workgroup shall study and make recommendations regarding:

15 (1) the training and credentialing required for community health
16 workers to be certified as nonclinical health care providers; and

17 (2) reimbursement and payment policies for community health
18 workers through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and private insurers.

19 (c) On or before December 1, 2014, the workgroup shall report its findings
20 and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
21 to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the
22 House Health and Government Operations Committee.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 June 1, 2014.