

Chapter 329

(Senate Bill 187)

AN ACT concerning

**~~Governor's Workforce Investment Board~~ – Workgroup to Study Access to Obstetric Services**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ authorizing the ~~Governor's Workforce Investment Board to coordinate~~ Maryland Hospital Association, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, health occupations boards, the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, and certain other entities and parties, to establish a workgroup to study access to obstetric services in the State ~~by developing~~; requiring the workgroup to develop a certain mechanism to evaluate certain factors and to make certain recommendations; requiring the workgroup to report to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date ~~each year~~; and generally relating to ~~the Governor's Workforce Investment Board and a~~ workgroup to study access to obstetric services.

~~BY adding to~~  
~~Article – Labor and Employment~~  
~~Section 11-505.2~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2008 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)~~

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

**~~Article – Labor and Employment~~**

**~~11-505.2.~~**

**~~(A) THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS, AND OTHER PARTIES AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE BOARD TO ESTABLISH A WORKGROUP TO STUDY ACCESS TO OBSTETRIC SERVICES IN THE STATE BY DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE MECHANISM TO EVALUATE:~~**

**~~(1) THE NUMBER AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF OBSTETRICAL HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN THE STATE;~~**

**~~(2) PRACTICE PATTERNS;~~**

**~~(3) PROVIDER PREFERENCES; AND~~**

~~(4) OTHER FACTORS DETERMINED TO BE RELEVANT BY THE WORKGROUP.~~

~~(b) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE WORKGROUP SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE FINDINGS OF THE BOARD.~~

(a) The Maryland Hospital Association, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the health occupations boards, the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, the Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Society of Maryland, the Maryland Association for Justice, the Maryland Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives, and other parties as determined appropriate by the Maryland Hospital Association, may establish a workgroup to study access to obstetric services in the State.

(b) The workgroup shall develop a comprehensive mechanism to evaluate:

(1) the number and geographic locations of obstetrical health care workers in the State;

(2) practice patterns;

(3) provider preferences; and

(4) other factors determined to be relevant by the workgroup.

(c) The workgroup shall make recommendations for enactment of legislation that would provide incentives to increase the availability of obstetric care services throughout the State.

(d) On or before December 1, 2015, the workgroup shall submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.