

HOUSE BILL 1282

J1, J2

6lr1639

By: **Delegates Sample–Hughes, Pena–Melnyk, Angel, Cullison, Hayes, Haynes, Krimm, Patterson, and Tarlau**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Enterprise Zone Practitioners – Trauma–Informed Care – Training**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “Health Enterprise Zone practitioner”, for
4 purposes of provisions of law governing Health Enterprise Zones, to require that a
5 health care practitioner included in the defined term be trained in trauma–informed
6 care; and generally relating to Health Enterprise Zone practitioners and
7 trauma–informed care.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Health – General

10 Section 20–1401

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2015 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

14 Article – Health – General

15 Section 20–1402 and 20–1405

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2015 Replacement Volume)

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

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 20–1401.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) “Area” means a contiguous geographic area that:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) Demonstrates measurable and documented health disparities and poor
2 health outcomes; and

3 (2) Is small enough to allow for the incentives offered under this subtitle to
4 have a significant impact on improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities,
5 including racial, ethnic, and geographic health disparities.

6 (c) “Commission” means the Community Health Resources Commission.

7 (d) “Fund” means the Health Enterprise Zone Reserve Fund established under §
8 20–1406 of this subtitle.

9 (e) “Health Enterprise Zone” means a contiguous geographic area that:

10 (1) Demonstrates measurable and documented health disparities and poor
11 health outcomes;

12 (2) Is small enough to allow for the incentives offered under this subtitle to
13 have a significant impact on improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities,
14 including racial, ethnic, and geographic health disparities; and

15 (3) Is designated as a Health Enterprise Zone by the Commission and the
16 Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.

17 (f) “Health Enterprise Zone practitioner” means a health care practitioner who
18 [is]:

19 (1) IS licensed or certified under the Health Occupations Article [and who
20 provides]; AND

21 (2) PROVIDES:

22 [(1)] (I) Primary care, including obstetrics, gynecological services,
23 pediatric services, or geriatric services;

24 [(2)] (II) Behavioral health services, including mental health or
25 alcohol and substance abuse services; or

26 [(3)] (III) Dental services; AND

27 (3) IS TRAINED IN TRAUMA–INFORMED CARE.

28 20–1402.

1 (a) The purpose of establishing Health Enterprise Zones is to target State
2 resources to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, and reduce health costs
3 and hospital admissions and readmissions in specific areas of the State.

4 (b) (1) The Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, may adopt
5 regulations to carry out the provisions of this subtitle and to specify eligibility criteria and
6 application, approval, and monitoring processes for the benefits under this subtitle.

7 (2) The Secretary shall consult with the Office of Minority Health and
8 Health Disparities in implementing the provisions of this subtitle.

9 20–1405.

10 (a) Health Enterprise Zone practitioners that practice in a Health Enterprise
11 Zone may receive:

12 (1) Tax credits against the State income tax as provided in § 10–731 of the
13 Tax – General Article;

14 (2) Loan repayment assistance, as provided for in the application for
15 designation for the Health Enterprise Zone and approved by the Secretary and the
16 Commission under this subtitle;

17 (3) Priority to enter the Maryland Patient Centered Medical Home
18 Program, if the Health Enterprise Zone practitioner meets the standards developed by the
19 Maryland Health Care Commission for entry into the Program; and

20 (4) Priority for the receipt of any State funding available for electronic
21 health records, if feasible and if other standards for receipt of the funding are met.

22 (b) A nonprofit community–based organization or a local government agency that
23 applies on behalf of an area for designation as a Health Enterprise Zone may receive grants,
24 as determined by the Commission and the Secretary, to implement actions outlined in the
25 organization’s or agency’s application to improve health outcomes and reduce health
26 disparities in the Health Enterprise Zone.

27 (c) (1) A Health Enterprise Zone practitioner may apply to the Secretary for a
28 grant to defray the costs of capital or leasehold improvements to, or medical or dental
29 equipment to be used in, a Health Enterprise Zone.

30 (2) To qualify for a grant under paragraph (1) of this subsection, a Health
31 Enterprise Zone practitioner shall:

32 (i) Own or lease the health care facility; and

33 (ii) Provide health care from that facility.

1 (3) (i) A grant to defray the cost of medical or dental equipment may
2 not exceed the lesser of \$25,000 or 50% of the cost of the equipment.

3 (ii) Grants for capital or leasehold improvements shall be for the
4 purposes of improving or expanding the delivery of health care in the Health Enterprise
5 Zone.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2016.