

Chapter 485

**(House Bill 599)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Health – Long–Term Care Planning**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, on or before a certain date, to develop and publish materials to assist State residents with long–term care family planning; requiring certain materials to meet certain requirements, be consistent with certain other materials, and include certain contact information; requiring the Department to make certain materials available in certain languages; requiring the Department to ensure that certain materials are understandable to individuals with limited literacy skills; requiring, on or before a certain date, certain State agencies to update certain websites in a certain manner; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to long–term care planning.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 20–2001 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 20. Long–Term Care Planning”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

**Article – Health – General**

**SUBTITLE 20. LONG–TERM CARE PLANNING.**

**20–2001.**

**(A) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH MATERIALS TO ASSIST MARYLAND RESIDENTS WITH LONG–TERM CARE FAMILY PLANNING.**

**(B) THE MATERIALS DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, CONSISTENT WITH RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 4 IN THE REPORT OF THE MARYLAND GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE ON LONG–TERM CARE PLANNING PUBLISHED IN 2018 AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTERS 212 AND 213 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2017, SHALL:**

(1) MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PLAN NOW STARTER KIT DESCRIBED IN RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 4;

(2) BE CONSISTENT WITH THE MOCK-UP PLAN NOW STARTER KIT MATERIALS DETAILED IN RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 4; AND

(3) INCLUDE CONTACT INFORMATION, INCLUDING WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS, FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT A STATE RESIDENT MAY CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH LONG-TERM CARE FAMILY PLANNING.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ~~MAKE~~:

(1) MAKE THE MATERIALS PUBLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND ANY OTHER LANGUAGE, AS THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS NECESSARY; AND

(2) ENSURE THAT THE MATERIALS PUBLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION ARE UNDERSTANDABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED LITERACY SKILLS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before April 1, 2022, the following State entities shall update their websites in accordance with recommendation number 5 in the Report of the Maryland Governor's Task Force on Long-Term Care Planning published in 2018 as required by Chapters 212 and 213 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017:

- (1) the Maryland Health Care Commission;
- (2) the Department of Disabilities; and
- (3) the Department of Aging.

(b) The websites the Department of Aging is required to update under subsection (a) of this section includes the Maryland Access Point website.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.**