

HOUSE BILL 906

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2lr2316
CF SB 607

By: **Delegate J. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Equity Resource Communities – Modifications**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our
4 Patients (CRISP) to provide technical assistance to the Community Health
5 Resources Commission in implementing provisions of law governing Health Equity
6 Resource Communities; altering the date by which the Commission must issue a
7 request for proposals to designate areas as Health Equity Resource Communities;
8 establishing that the Health Equity Resource Fund may be used to fund ~~a~~ certain
9 ~~number of~~ staffing positions at the Commission ~~in a certain year~~ and to pay for costs
10 incurred by CRISP in providing the technical assistance ~~in certain fiscal years~~; and
11 generally relating to Health Equity Resource Communities.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 20–1402(a) and 20–1407(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Health – General
19 Section 20–1402(b)(2)(i), 20–1405(a)(1), and 20–1407(f)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 20–1402.

5 (a) The purpose of establishing Health Equity Resource Communities is to target
6 State resources to specific areas of the State to:

7 (1) Reduce health disparities;

8 (2) Improve health outcomes;

9 (3) Improve access to primary care;

10 (4) Promote primary and secondary prevention services; and

11 (5) Reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions.

12 (b) (2) (i) The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities **AND THE**
13 **CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS (CRISP)** shall
14 provide technical assistance to the Commission in implementing the provisions of this
15 subtitle.

16 20–1405.

17 (a) (1) On or before October 1, ~~[2022]~~ **2023**, the Commission shall issue a
18 request for proposals to designate areas as Health Equity Resource Communities in
19 accordance with this subtitle.

20 20–1407.

21 (a) There is a Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund.

22 (f) **(1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
23 **SUBSECTION, THE** Fund may be used only to provide funding to the Commission for the
24 support of areas designated as Health Equity Resource Communities by providing grants
25 to community–based organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education,
26 local government agencies, health care practitioners, federally qualified health centers, and
27 community health workers to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, provide
28 addiction and mental health services, and reduce health costs and hospital admissions and
29 readmissions.

30 **(2) (I) ~~IN 2022, THE~~ THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE**
31 **OF FUNDING ONE FULL-TIME STAFF POSITION UNDER § 19–2112(A)(4) OF THIS**

1 ARTICLE AND TWO FULL-TIME STAFF POSITIONS UNDER § 20-1402(C) OF THIS
2 SUBTITLE ON THE COMMISSION.

3 (II) IN FISCAL ~~YEARS~~ YEAR 2024 AND 2025 EACH FISCAL YEAR
4 THEREAFTER, THE FUND MAY BE USED TO PAY FOR THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE
5 CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS (CRISP) IN
6 PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.