

SENATE BILL 636

J1

2lr2378
CF 2lr3146

By: **Senators Zucker, Guzzone, Griffith, Feldman, Kelley, and Waldstreicher**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Waiver Programs – Waitlist Reduction**
3 **(End the Wait Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a plan to
5 reduce the waitlist for certain waiver programs by a certain percentage beginning in
6 a certain fiscal year; and generally relating to waiver programs administered by the
7 Maryland Department of Health.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Health – General

10 Section 15–150

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Health – General**

16 **15–150.**

17 **(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO REDUCE THE**
18 **WAITLISTS FOR THE FOLLOWING WAIVER PROGRAMS BY 50%, BEGINNING IN FISCAL**
19 **YEAR 2024:**

20 **(I) THE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS WAIVER;**

21 **(II) THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WAIVER;**

22 **(III) THE FAMILY SUPPORTS WAIVER;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (IV) THE BRAIN INJURY WAIVER;
- 2 (V) THE HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED OPTIONS WAIVER;
- 3 (VI) THE MEDICAL DAY CARE SERVICES WAIVER;
- 4 (VII) THE MODEL WAIVER FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE
5 CHILDREN; AND
- 6 (VIII) THE AUTISM WAIVER.

7 (2) THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

8 (I) MEASURES TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN PROVIDERS FOR EACH
9 WAIVER PROGRAM;

10 (II) ANY CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR SERVICES
11 PROVIDED UNDER THE WAIVER PROGRAMS;

12 (III) THE EXPECTED TIME FRAME FOR REDUCING THE WAITLIST
13 FOR EACH WAIVER PROGRAM BY 50%; AND

14 (IV) THE PROJECTED COST OF THE MEASURES TO BE
15 IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PLAN.

16 (3) PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN RELATING TO THE AUTISM WAIVER
17 SHALL BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARYLAND STATE
18 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

19 (B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT
20 THE PLAN TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
21 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION
22 COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
23 COMMITTEE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
24 COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
25 COMMITTEE.

26 (C) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN
27 THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2022.