SENATE BILL 636

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

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY adding to
Article – Health – General
Section 15–150
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

15–150.

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

(1) THE COMMUNITY PATHWAYS WAIVER;

(II) THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WAIVER;

(III) THE FAMILY SUPPORTS WAIVER;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
Brackets indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(IV) THE BRAIN INJURY WAIVER;

(V) THE HOME– AND COMMUNITY–BASED OPTIONS WAIVER;

(VI) THE MEDICAL DAY CARE SERVICES WAIVER;

(vii) THE MODEL WAIVER FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN; AND

(viii) THE AUTISM WAIVER.

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

(i) MEASURES TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN PROVIDERS FOR EACH WAIVER PROGRAM;

(ii) ANY CHANGES IN REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE WAIVER PROGRAMS;

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

(iv) THE PROJECTED COST OF THE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PLAN.

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


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

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