SENATE BILL 636

By: Senators Zucker, Guzzone, Griffith, Feldman, Kelley, and Waldstreicher, Waldstreicher, Augustine, Beidle, Benson, Corderman, Eckardt, Edwards, Elfreth, Hayes, Hershey, Jackson, Jennings, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, McCray, Ready, Rosapepe, Salling, and Young

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 5, 2022

CHAPTER ______

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop plans to reduce the waitlist or registry 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.

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.
(A) (1) (i) The Department shall develop a plan to reduce the waitlists for the following waiver programs by 50%, beginning in fiscal year 2024:

(i) 1. The Community Pathways Waiver;

(ii) 2. The Community Supports Waiver;

(iii) 3. The Family Supports Waiver;

(iv) 4. The Brain Injury Waiver;

(v) 5. The Home- and Community-Based Options Waiver;

(vi) 6. The Medical Day Care Services Waiver; and

(vii) 7. The Model Waiver for Medically Fragile Children; and

(viii) The Autism Waiver.

(ii) The Department shall develop a plan to reduce the registry for the Autism Waiver that includes conducting eligibility determinations of individuals on the registry and, beginning in fiscal year 2024, providing services to at least 50% of individuals determined eligible.

(2) The plan required under this subsection shall include:

(i) An assessment of whether each waiver program needs to recruit and retain new providers;

(ii) Measures to recruit and retain providers for each waiver program to expand the capacity of the programs;

(iii) Any changes in reimbursement rates needed to ensure provider capacity to provide services provided under the waiver programs;

(iv) The expected time frame for conducting eligibility determinations for the Autism Waiver;
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(III) (V) THE EXPECTED TIME FRAME FOR REDUCING THE WAITLIST OR REGISTRY FOR EACH WAIVER PROGRAM BY 50%; AND

(IV) (VI) THE PROJECTED COST OF THE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PLAN PLANS.

(3) PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN PLANS 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.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.