

SENATE BILL 700

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CF HB 1389

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care**
3 **Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health to establish the Prevent Workplace
5 Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup to develop
6 a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence in health care
7 settings and to create a plan for implementing the campaign; and generally relating
8 to the Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness
9 Campaign Workgroup.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration,
12 approximately 75% of the workplace assaults reported annually occurred in health care
13 settings; and

14 WHEREAS, Workers in health care settings are four times more likely to be victims
15 of workplace violence than workers in other settings; and

16 WHEREAS, Violence–related injuries are four times more likely to cause health care
17 workers to take time off from work than other kinds of injuries; and

18 WHEREAS, Alarming, the actual number of violent incidents involving health care
19 is much likely higher than reported, because episodes of workplace violence are grossly
20 underreported; and

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 WHEREAS, The experience of workplace violence has not only physical
2 consequences, but personal, emotional, and professional consequences as well; and

3 WHEREAS, Hospitals and health care providers are actively working to prevent
4 workplace violence with electronic systems for reporting and tracking incidences of
5 workplace violence, implementing zero tolerance policies, providing training on
6 de-escalation techniques, increasing security, and disseminating personal wearable safety
7 alarms; and

8 WHEREAS, While health care providers were lauded as health care heroes and
9 celebrated at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, today they are experiencing an
10 alarming rise in violence in the workplace; and

11 WHEREAS, The increase in workplace violence is contributing to the burnout of
12 health care professionals who are leaving the profession or changing practice locations; and

13 WHEREAS, Having an increased public awareness of the magnitude of and
14 consequences associated with workplace violence in health care settings would help combat
15 this phenomenon; now, therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That:

18 (a) (1) The Secretary of Health shall establish a Prevent Workplace Violence
19 in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup.

20 (2) The Workgroup shall include the following members, appointed by the
21 Secretary:

22 (i) at least one licensed health care provider, including a provider
23 who has experienced workplace violence;

24 (ii) at least one individual who works in a hospital;

25 (iii) at least one individual who works in a nursing home;

26 (iv) at least one public communications professional;

27 (v) at least one individual who works in a facility that provides
28 mental health services;

29 (vi) at least one individual who works in a facility that provides
30 treatment for substance abuse disorders;

1 (vii) ~~at least one individual who works in a facility that provides~~
2 ~~health care services to individuals with disabilities~~ one representative from the Maryland
3 State's Attorneys' Association;

4 (viii) at least one representative who works to provide security
5 services at a health care facility; and

6 (ix) any other representative that the Secretary determines
7 necessary.

8 (b) The Workgroup shall:

9 (1) develop a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence
10 in health care settings to:

11 (i) provide the public with information on:

12 1. the magnitude of incidences of workplace violence in
13 health care settings in the State; and

14 2. the consequences of workplace violence in health care
15 settings in the State; and

16 (ii) urge the public to respect the State's health care providers and
17 protect the State's health care providers from workplace violence;

18 (2) recognize and accommodate the needs of patients with mental health
19 disorders, and substance abuse disorders, ~~and disabilities~~ in the development of the
20 campaign; and

21 (3) create a plan for implementing the public awareness campaign,
22 including distributing information on workplace violence in a health care setting in the
23 State.

24 (c) On or before November 1, 2022, the Workgroup shall report to the Senate
25 Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in
26 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the public awareness
27 campaign developed under subsection (b) of this section.

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