

Chapter 376

(House Bill 906)

AN ACT concerning

Health Equity Resource Communities – Modifications

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 20–1402(b)(2)(i), 20–1405(a)(1), and 20–1407(f)
 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

20–1402.

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

- (1) Reduce health disparities;
- (2) Improve health outcomes;
- (3) Improve access to primary care;
- (4) Promote primary and secondary prevention services; and

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

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

20-1405.

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

20-1407.

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

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

(2) (I) ~~IN 2022, THE~~ THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING ONE FULL-TIME STAFF POSITION UNDER § 19-2112(A)(4) OF THIS ARTICLE AND TWO FULL-TIME STAFF POSITIONS UNDER § 20-1402(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE ON THE COMMISSION.

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.