

# HOUSE BILL 977

J1, P1

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By: ~~Delegate Reznik~~ Delegates Pena-Melnyk, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Chisholm, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Kipke, R. Lewis, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Szeliga, Taveras, White, and Woods

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in the Maryland  
4 Department of Health to advance forensic science and carry out other duties as  
5 provided by law; renaming the State Postmortem Examiners Commission to be the  
6 Postmortem Examiners Advisory Committee; establishing the duties of the  
7 Committee; requiring and authorizing the Department and the Office to perform  
8 certain duties and powers previously performed by the Commission; altering the type  
9 and number of certain medical doctors the Office is required to employ; authorizing  
10 the Department to contract with a physician for employment with the Office on a per  
11 diem basis; altering the time period within which certain assistant medical  
12 examiners must obtain a certain certification; requiring the Secretary of Health to  
13 consult with the Committee on matters related to the employment of the Chief  
14 Medical Examiner; prohibiting the Department and the Committee from interfering  
15 with certain clinical findings and conclusions by the Office; prohibiting the reduction  
16 of the allowance of certain individuals who are receiving a service retirement  
17 allowance or vested allowance from the State Retirement and Pension System and  
18 are reemployed on a contractual basis by the Department as health care  
19 practitioners in the Office; and generally relating to the Office of the Chief Medical  
20 Examiner.

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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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 Article – Health – General  
2 Section 2–106, 5–301 through 5–307, and 5–309 through 5–312  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

5 BY repealing  
6 Article – Health – General  
7 Section 5–308  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – State Personnel and Pensions  
12 Section 23–407(a), (b), and (c)(1)(iii), (2), and (3)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – State Personnel and Pensions  
17 Section 23–407(c)(4)(vi)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 2–106.

24 (a) The following units are in the Department:

25 (1) Anatomy Board.

26 (2) Behavioral Health Administration.

27 (3) Developmental Disabilities Administration.

28 (4) Health Services Cost Review Commission.

29 (5) Maryland Psychiatric Research Center.

30 (6) [Postmortem Examiners Commission] **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**  
31 **MEDICAL EXAMINER.**

32 (7) Board of Examiners for Audiologists, **HEARING AID DISPENSERS,**  
33 **SPEECH–LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, AND MUSIC THERAPISTS.**

- 1 (8) Board of Chiropractic Examiners.
- 2 (9) Board of Dental Examiners.
- 3 (10) Board of Dietetic Practice.
- 4 (11) Board of Electrologists.
- 5 (12) Board of Morticians **AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS.**
- 6 (13) Board of Nursing.
- 7 (14) Board of ~~Examiners~~ of [Nursing Home] **LONG-TERM CARE**  
8 Administrators.
- 9 (15) Board of Occupational Therapy Practice.
- 10 (16) Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- 11 (17) Board of Pharmacy.
- 12 (18) Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
- 13 (19) Board of Physicians.
- 14 (20) Board of [Podiatry] **PODIATRIC MEDICAL** Examiners.
- 15 (21) Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists.
- 16 (22) Board of Examiners of Psychologists.
- 17 (23) Board of Social Work Examiners.
- 18 (24) **ACUPUNCTURE** Board [of Examiners for Speech-Language  
19 Pathologists].
- 20 **(25) BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY EXAMINERS.**
- 21 **(26) BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE**  
22 **PROGRAM PROFESSIONALS.**
- 23 **(27) BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS.**
- 24 (b) The Department also includes every other unit that is in the Department  
25 under any other law.

1 (c) The Secretary has the authority and powers specifically granted to the  
2 Secretary by law over the units in the Department. All authority and powers not so granted  
3 to the Secretary are reserved to those units free of the control of the Secretary.

4 5–301.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) [“Commission”] **“COMMITTEE”** means the [State] Postmortem Examiners  
7 [Commission] **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

8 (c) “Medical examiner’s case” means a death that a medical examiner is required  
9 by law to investigate.

10 **(D) “OFFICE” MEANS THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.**

11 5–302.

12 **(A)** There is [a State Postmortem Examiners Commission] **AN OFFICE OF THE**  
13 **CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER** in the Department.

14 **(B) THE OFFICE SHALL:**

15 **(1) AS ALLOWED BY STAFFING, ADVANCE FORENSIC SCIENCE**  
16 **THROUGH MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH; AND**

17 **(2) CARRY OUT ANY OTHER DUTY ESTABLISHED IN LAW.**

18 5–303.

19 **(a) THERE IS A POSTMORTEM EXAMINERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

20 **(B)** The [Commission] **COMMITTEE** consists of the following [5] members:

21 (1) The Baltimore City Commissioner of Health;

22 (2) The head of the Pathology Department of the University of Maryland  
23 School of Medicine;

24 (3) The head of the Pathology Department of Johns Hopkins University  
25 School of Medicine;

26 (4) The Secretary of State Police; [and]

27 (5) A representative of the Department, chosen by the Secretary; **AND**

1           **(6) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY, IN**  
2 **CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE.**

3           **[(b)] (C) [(1)] From among [its] THE COMMITTEE members, the**  
4 **[Commission] SECRETARY shall [elect a chairman and a vice chairman] APPOINT A**  
5 **CHAIR.**

6           **[(2)]** The manner of election of officers and their terms of office shall be as  
7 the Commission determines.

8           **(3)** The vice chairman shall act as chairman when the chairman is absent  
9 or cannot act.]

10           **(D) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ADVISE THE SECRETARY AND THE OFFICE ON:**

11           **(1) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

12           **(2) CARRYING OUT THE OFFICE'S DUTIES.**

13 5-304.

14           **(a)** The [Commission] COMMITTEE shall determine the times and places of its  
15 meetings.

16           **(b)** A member of the [Commission] COMMITTEE may not receive compensation  
17 **FOR PERFORMING COMMITTEE DUTIES.**

18 5-305.

19           **(a) (1)** The [Commission] DEPARTMENT may employ a staff in accordance  
20 with the State budget for the operation of the [Commission] OFFICE and to maintain  
21 accreditation.

22           **(2)** The staff shall include:

23                   **(i)** 1 chief medical examiner;

24                   **(ii)** 2 deputy chief medical examiners;

25                   **(iii)** Assistant medical examiners;

26                   **(iv)** 1 chief State toxicologist, 1 deputy chief State toxicologist, lead  
27 toxicologists, and assistant toxicologists;

28                   **(v)** 1 serologist;

1 (vi) [4 resident] **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NUMBER OF**  
2 **POSITIONS APPROVED BY THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL**  
3 **EDUCATION, FELLOW** medical doctors who are training in forensic pathology;

4 (vii) 1 chief forensic investigator, 2 deputy chief forensic  
5 investigators, lead forensic investigators, and assistant forensic investigators; and

6 (viii) 1 autopsy services supervisor, 1 deputy supervisor, lead autopsy  
7 technicians, and assistant autopsy technicians.

8 (3) [The Commission] **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF**  
9 **LAW, THE DEPARTMENT** may employ any physician on a contract basis for part-time  
10 services **OR PER DIEM SERVICES**.

11 (4) The Department shall ensure that the number of staff employed ~~by the~~  
12 ~~Commission~~ **AT THE OFFICE** does not fall to a level that would constitute a Phase II  
13 violation according to the National Association of Medical Examiners.

14 (b) (1) The Chief Medical Examiner and deputy chief medical examiners shall  
15 be board certified in anatomic and forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology.

16 (2) Assistant medical examiners appointed on or after October 1, 2008,  
17 shall be certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and forensic pathology  
18 or obtain that certification within [3 years of appointment] **THE ASSISTANT MEDICAL**  
19 **EXAMINER'S PERIOD OF BOARD ELIGIBILITY PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD**  
20 **OF PATHOLOGY**.

21 (3) **THE SECRETARY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE COMMITTEE**  
22 **REGARDING MATTERS RELATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL**  
23 **EXAMINER**.

24 (c) With the approval of the Secretary of Budget and Management, the  
25 [Commission] **DEPARTMENT** shall set the compensation for personnel appointed under  
26 subsection (a)(2) of this section.

27 (d) [For the use of these medical examiners, the Commission] **THE OFFICE** shall  
28 see that proper equipment is provided **FOR THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS**.

29 (e) The Chief Medical Examiner, a deputy chief medical examiner, or an assistant  
30 medical examiner shall be on call at all times to perform the duties set forth in this subtitle.

31 (f) The State budget shall include an appropriation to carry out this subtitle,  
32 including provisions for:

33 (1) The fee for an authorized pathologist;

1           (2)    The necessary expenses for transportation of a body for examination by  
2 a medical examiner or for autopsy; and

3           (3)    In the case of a victim of homicide, the necessary expenses for  
4 transportation of the body from the site of the autopsy or examination to a location within  
5 the State specified by the victim's family.

6 5-306.

7           (a)    This section does not apply to Baltimore City.

8           (b)    (1)    [The Commission] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
9 **SUBSECTION, THE OFFICE** may appoint one or more deputy medical examiners and  
10 forensic investigators for each county.

11           (2)    **(I)**    The [Commission] **OFFICE** shall appoint a deputy medical  
12 examiner for a county from a list of qualified individuals submitted to the [Commission]  
13 **OFFICE** by the medical society of the county.

14                   **(II)**    The number of names on the list shall be at least twice the  
15 number of vacancies. [However, if]

16                   **(III)** **IF** a county does not have a medical society or if the medical  
17 society does not submit a list of names, the [Commission] **OFFICE** may appoint a deputy  
18 medical examiner for the county without a list.

19           (c)    Each deputy medical examiner appointed under subsection (b) of this section  
20 shall be a physician.

21           (d)    If necessary, a deputy medical examiner may deputize another physician in  
22 the county to act as deputy medical examiner.

23           (e)    Each deputy medical examiner is entitled:

24                   (1)    For each medical examiner's case that the examiner investigates, to a  
25 fee that is set in accordance with the State budget;

26                   (2)    If the examiner is called as a witness before a grand jury or in a criminal  
27 case, to the fee that the court sets; and

28                   (3)    To any additional compensation that a county provides.

29 5-307.

1 The [Commission] DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEE,  
2 may adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

3 [5-308.

4 (a) The power of the Secretary over plans, proposals, and projects of units in the  
5 Department does not include the power to disapprove or modify any decision or  
6 determination that the Commission makes under authority specifically delegated by law to  
7 the Commission.

8 (b) The power of the Secretary to transfer by rule, regulation, or written directive,  
9 any staff, functions, or funds of units in the Department does not apply to any staff,  
10 function, or funds of the Commission.]

11 [5-309.] **5-308.**

12 (a) (1) A medical examiner shall investigate the death of a human being if the  
13 death occurs:

14 (i) By violence;

15 (ii) By suicide;

16 (iii) By casualty;

17 (iv) Suddenly, if the deceased was in apparent good health or  
18 unattended by a physician; or

19 (v) In any suspicious or unusual manner.

20 (2) A medical examiner shall investigate the death of a human fetus if:

21 (i) Regardless of the duration of the pregnancy, the death occurs  
22 before the complete expulsion or extraction of the fetus from the mother; and

23 (ii) The mother is not attended by a physician at or after the delivery.

24 (b) If a medical examiner's case occurs, the police or sheriff immediately shall  
25 notify the medical examiner and State's Attorney for the county where the body is found  
26 and give the known facts concerning the time, place, manner, and circumstances of the  
27 death.

28 (c) Immediately on notification that a medical examiner's case has occurred, the  
29 medical examiner or an investigator of the medical examiner shall go to and take charge of  
30 the body. The medical examiner or the investigator shall investigate fully the essential facts  
31 concerning the medical cause of death and, before leaving the premises, reduce these facts



1 and the names and addresses of witnesses to writing, which shall be filed in the medical  
2 examiner's office.

3 (d) The medical examiner or the investigator shall take possession of and deliver  
4 to the State's Attorney or the State's Attorney's designee any object or article that, in the  
5 opinion of the medical examiner or the investigator, may be useful in establishing the cause  
6 of death.

7 (e) (1) If the next of kin of the deceased is not present at the investigation, the  
8 police officer or sheriff at the investigation or, if a police officer or sheriff is not present, the  
9 medical examiner or the investigator shall:

10 (i) Take possession of all property of value found on the body;

11 (ii) In the report of the death, make an exact inventory of the  
12 property; and

13 (iii) Deliver the property to the appropriate sheriff or police  
14 department.

15 (2) The sheriff or police department shall surrender the property to the  
16 person who is entitled to its possession or custody.

17 (f) (1) If the case involves the unexpected death of a child, the medical  
18 examiner shall notify the chairperson of the local child fatality review team for the county  
19 in which the child resided.

20 (2) If the case involves the death of a child and the death is believed to be  
21 caused by abuse or neglect, or there is evidence suggesting that the child was a victim of  
22 abuse or neglect, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall orally report the findings  
23 and deliver a copy of the child's final autopsy report to the local department of social  
24 services and the local law enforcement agency of the county in which the child last resided  
25 in accordance with § 5-704 of the Family Law Article.

26 **[5-310.] 5-309.**

27 (a) If the cause of death is established to a reasonable degree of medical certainty,  
28 the medical examiner who investigates the case shall file in the medical examiner's office  
29 a report on the cause of death within 30 days after notification of the case.

30 (b) (1) If the medical examiner who investigates a medical examiner's case  
31 considers an autopsy necessary, the Chief Medical Examiner, a deputy chief medical  
32 examiner, an assistant medical examiner, or a pathologist authorized by the Chief Medical  
33 Examiner shall perform the autopsy.

1           (2)     If the family of the deceased objects to an autopsy on religious grounds,  
2 the autopsy may not be performed unless authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner or by  
3 the Chief Medical Examiner's designee.

4           (3)     (i)     In accordance with normal standards of medical practice, the  
5 medical examiner performing the autopsy may retain any medical evidence, tissue, or organ  
6 needed to carry out the duties of this subtitle.

7                     (ii)    The medical examiner shall dispose of any medical evidence,  
8 tissue, or organ under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph in accordance with normal  
9 standards of medical practice.

10          (c)     (1)     A medical examiner shall conduct an autopsy of any fire fighter and any  
11 sworn personnel of the State Fire Marshal's Office who dies in the line of duty or as a result  
12 of injuries sustained in the line of duty.

13           (2)     The autopsy shall include:

14                     (i)     A toxicological analysis for toxic fumes;

15                     (ii)    Gross and microscopic studies of heart, lung, and any other  
16 tissue involved;

17                     (iii)   Appropriate studies of blood and urine; and

18                     (iv)   Appropriate studies of body fluids and body tissues.

19          (3)     If the medical examiner determines toxic fumes were the cause of death,  
20 the medical examiner shall:

21                     (i)     Investigate to the extent possible the source of the fumes; and

22                     (ii)    Prepare a written report on the specific effects of the fumes on  
23 human tissue.

24          (4)     The autopsy and analysis shall be sufficient to determine eligibility for  
25 benefits under the federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976.

26          (d)     (1)     (i)     The individual who performs the autopsy shall prepare detailed  
27 written findings during the progress of the autopsy.

28                     (ii)    The findings prepared under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph  
29 and the conclusions drawn from them shall be filed in the office of the medical examiner for  
30 the county where the death occurred.

31                     (iii)   The original copy of the findings and conclusions shall be filed in  
32 the [office of the Chief Medical Examiner] **OFFICE**.

1                   **(IV) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMITTEE MAY NOT**  
2 **INTERFERE WITH THE CLINICAL FINDINGS OR CONCLUSIONS PREPARED UNDER**  
3 **SUBPARAGRAPHS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

4                   (2)   (i)    Except in a case of a finding of homicide, a person in interest as  
5 defined in § 4–101(e) of the General Provisions Article may request the medical examiner  
6 to correct findings and conclusions on the cause and manner of death recorded on a  
7 certificate of death under § 4–502 of the General Provisions Article within 60 days after the  
8 medical examiner files those findings and conclusions.

9                   (ii)   1.    If the Chief Medical Examiner denies the request of a  
10 person in interest to correct findings and conclusions on the cause and manner of death,  
11 the person in interest may appeal the denial to the Secretary, who shall refer the matter to  
12 the Office of Administrative Hearings.

13                               2.    A contested case hearing under this subparagraph shall be  
14 a hearing both on the denial and on the establishment of the findings and conclusions on  
15 the cause and manner of death.

16                   (iii)   The administrative law judge shall submit findings of fact to the  
17 Secretary.

18                   (iv)   After reviewing the findings of the administrative law judge, the  
19 Secretary, or the Secretary’s designee, shall issue an order to:

20                               1.    Adopt the findings of the administrative law judge; or

21                               2.    Reject the findings of the administrative law judge, and  
22 affirm the findings of the medical examiner.

23                   (v)    The appellant may appeal a rejection under subparagraph (iv)2  
24 of this paragraph to a circuit court of competent jurisdiction.

25                   (vi)   If the final decision of the Secretary, or of the Secretary’s  
26 designee, or of a court of competent jurisdiction on appeal, establishes a different finding  
27 or conclusion on the cause or manner of death of a deceased than that recorded on the  
28 certificate of death, the medical examiner shall amend the certificate to reflect the different  
29 finding or conclusion under §§ 4–212 and 4–214 of this article and § 4–502 of the General  
30 Provisions Article.

31                   (vii)   The final decision of the Secretary, or the Secretary’s designee,  
32 or of a court under this paragraph may not give rise to any presumption concerning the  
33 application of any provision of or the resolution of any claim concerning a policy of insurance  
34 relating to the deceased.

1 (viii) If the findings of the medical examiner are upheld by the  
2 Secretary, the appellant is responsible for the costs of the contested case hearing.  
3 Otherwise, the Department is responsible for the costs of the hearing.

4 (e) The Chief Medical Examiner shall set a reasonable fee for performing an  
5 autopsy by an authorized pathologist.

6 **[5-311.] 5-310.**

7 (a) (1) The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall keep complete records  
8 on each medical examiner's case.

9 (2) The records shall be indexed properly and include:

10 (i) The name, if known, of the deceased;

11 (ii) The place where the body was found;

12 (iii) The date, cause, and manner of death; and

13 (iv) All other available information about the death.

14 (b) The original report of the medical examiner who investigates a medical  
15 examiner's case and the findings and conclusions of any autopsy shall be attached to the  
16 record of the medical examiner's case.

17 (c) The Chief Medical Examiner or, if the Chief Medical Examiner is absent or  
18 cannot act, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner or an assistant medical examiner, and each  
19 deputy medical examiner promptly shall deliver to the State's Attorney for the county  
20 where the body was found a copy of each record that relates to a death for which the medical  
21 examiner considers further investigation advisable. A State's Attorney may obtain from the  
22 office of a medical examiner a copy of any record or other information that the State's  
23 Attorney considers necessary.

24 (d) (1) In this subsection, "record":

25 (i) Means the result of an external examination of or an autopsy on  
26 a body; and

27 (ii) Does not include a statement of a witness or other individual.

28 (2) A record of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or any deputy  
29 medical examiner, if made by the medical examiner or by anyone under the medical  
30 examiner's direct supervision or control, or a certified transcript of that record, is competent  
31 evidence in any court in this State of the matters and facts contained in it.

1 (e) (1) The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall charge a reasonable fee  
2 for reports as specified in a schedule of fees defined in the regulations of the Office of the  
3 Chief Medical Examiner.

4 (2) A deputy medical examiner may keep any fee collected by the deputy  
5 medical examiner.

6 **[5-312.] 5-311.**

7 Subject to the limitations in [§ 5-311(e)] **§ 5-310(C)** of this subtitle, a medical  
8 examiner may administer oaths, take affidavits, and make examinations as to any matter  
9 within the medical examiner's jurisdiction.

### 10 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

11 23-407.

12 (a) In this section, “area of critical shortage” means an academic field identified  
13 by the State Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of § 18-703(g)(1)  
14 of the Education Article as having projected employment vacancies that substantially  
15 exceed projected qualified graduates.

16 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, an individual who is  
17 receiving a service retirement allowance or a vested allowance may accept employment  
18 with a participating employer on a permanent, temporary, or contractual basis, if:

19 (1) the individual immediately notifies the Board of Trustees of the  
20 individual's intention to accept this employment; and

21 (2) the individual specifies the compensation to be received.

22 (c) (1) Except as provided in § 23-408 of this subtitle, the Board of Trustees  
23 shall reduce the allowance of an individual who accepts employment as provided under  
24 subsection (b) of this section if:

25 (iii) the individual becomes reemployed within 12 months of  
26 receiving an early service retirement allowance or an early vested allowance computed  
27 under § 23-402 of this subtitle.

28 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph and  
29 subject to subparagraphs (iii) and (iv) of this paragraph, the reduction required under  
30 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall equal:

31 1. the amount by which the sum of the individual's initial  
32 annual basic allowance and the individual's annual compensation exceeds the average final  
33 compensation used to compute the basic allowance; or



1                   1.     if the retiree retired from any unit of State government,  
2 the retiree's monthly State-approved medical insurance premiums; or

3                   2.     if the retiree retired from a participating employer other  
4 than the State, the approved monthly medical insurance premiums required by the  
5 participating employer that employed the retiree at the time of the retiree's retirement.

6                   (iv)   The Board of Trustees shall recover from the retiree any  
7 difference between the reduction required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and  
8 the reduction taken under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph.

9                   (3)   A reduction of an early service retirement allowance or an early vested  
10 allowance under paragraph (1)(iii) of this subsection shall be applied only until the  
11 individual has received an allowance for 12 months.

12                  (4)   Except for an individual whose allowance is subject to a reduction as  
13 provided under paragraphs (1)(iii) and (3) of this subsection, the reduction of an allowance  
14 under this subsection does not apply to:

15                  (vi)   a retiree of the Employees' Pension System who is reemployed on  
16 a contractual basis by the Maryland Department of Health as a health care practitioner, as  
17 defined in § 1-301 of the Health Occupations Article in:

18                   1.     a State residential center as defined in § 7-101 of the  
19 Health – General Article;

20                   2.     a chronic disease center subject to Title 19, Subtitle 5 of  
21 the Health – General Article;

22                   3.     a State facility as defined in § 10-101 of the Health –  
23 General Article; [or]

24                   4.     a local health department subject to Title 3, Subtitle 2 of  
25 the Health – General Article; **OR**

26                   **5.     THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER;**

27                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2023.