

HOUSE BILL 568

P1

4lr2177

By: **Delegates Bagnall and R. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Health Worker Appreciation Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as
4 Community Health Worker Appreciation Day.

5 BY renumbering

6 Article – General Provisions

7 Section 7–410 through 7–420

8 to be Section 7–411 through 7–421, respectively

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY adding to

12 Article – General Provisions

13 Section 7–410

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Community health workers are frontline public health workers and
18 intermediaries between social services and the underserved communities that need access
19 to crucial health care resources; and

20 WHEREAS, Community health workers play invaluable roles in our public health
21 care system and in Maryland’s diverse communities; and

22 WHEREAS, Community health workers utilize vital cultural and linguistic skills to
23 better serve communities across Maryland in effective, culturally specific ways; and

24 WHEREAS, Community health workers share resources and education about

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 disease prevention and management and help to remove obstacles to community members'
2 health and wellness; and

3 WHEREAS, Community health workers address the social determinants of health
4 and improve health outcomes for low-income, underrepresented, and underserved
5 communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Community health workers strive to ensure that every Marylander has
7 the opportunity to attain their highest level of health; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That Section(s) 7-410 through 7-420 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code
10 of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-411 through 7-421, respectively.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
12 as follows:

13 **Article – General Provisions**

14 **7-410.**

15 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM MAY 8TH AS COMMUNITY**
16 **HEALTH WORKER APPRECIATION DAY.**

17 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL**
18 **ORGANIZATIONS TO OBSERVE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS WITH INFORMATIVE**
19 **PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2024.