

## Chapter 777

## (House Bill 986)

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Coverage for the Treatment of Obesity – Required Study**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to study the impact of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity; and generally relating to a study of coverage for the treatment of obesity. ~~requiring, beginning on a certain date, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide notice to Program recipients of the coverage requirements; and generally relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and coverage for the treatment of obesity.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – Health – General  
Section 15–103(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Health – General  
Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxi) and (xxii)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume)  
(As enacted by Chapters 504 and 505 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022)~~

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Health – General  
Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxiii) and 15–155  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume)~~

**SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,**

That:

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity” includes coverage for intensive behavioral therapy, bariatric surgery, and FDA-approved antiobesity medication.

(3) “FDA-approved antiobesity medication” means any medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration with an indication for chronic weight management in patients with obesity.

(b) The Maryland Department of Health shall study the impact of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity.

(c) In conducting the study, the Department shall:

(1) identify and compare the coverage for the treatment of obesity under medical assistance programs and other public health programs in other states; and

(2) examine and estimate any potential savings that may result from requiring comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity.

(d) On or before December 31, 2024, the Maryland Department of Health shall report its findings to the House Health and Government Operations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

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

~~Article Health General~~

~~15-103.~~

~~(a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.~~

~~(2) The Program:~~

~~(xxi) Beginning on January 1, 2024, shall provide gender-affirming treatment in accordance with § 15-151 of this subtitle; [and]~~

~~(xxii) Beginning on July 1, 2025, shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget, and as permitted by federal law, coverage for biomarker testing in accordance with § 15-859 of the Insurance Article; AND~~

~~(XXIII) BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2025, SHALL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15-155 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~15-155.~~

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(2) "COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY" INCLUDES COVERAGE FOR INTENSIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY, BARIATRIC SURGERY, AND FDA APPROVED ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATION.~~

~~(3) "FDA APPROVED ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATION" MEANS ANY MEDICATION APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION WITH AN INDICATION FOR CHRONIC WEIGHT MANAGEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH OBESITY.~~

~~(B) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY.~~

~~(C) COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR FDA APPROVED ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATIONS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE FDA APPROVED ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATION'S INDICATIONS FOR TREATMENT.~~

~~(D) THE PROGRAM MAY UNDERTAKE UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT TO DETERMINE THE MEDICAL NECESSITY AND APPROPRIATENESS FOR TREATMENT OF OBESITY UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE IN THE SAME MANNER AS DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ANY OTHER ILLNESS, CONDITION, OR DISORDER COVERED BY THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS OF THE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before June 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health shall provide notice to Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients of the coverage required by this Act in writing, and prominently positioned in any literature or correspondence sent to Program recipients about coverage available under the Program in calendar year 2025.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 2. July 1, 2024.~~

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.