

Chapter 748

(House Bill 1478)

AN ACT concerning

Public Health – Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers ~~Directory~~

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to ~~establish and maintain an online directory of each home health care provider; requiring that the directory allow an individual to search the directory and identify a home health care provider based on specified criteria~~ submit a report on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online directory of home health care providers for certain purposes to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to home health care providers.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 19–4A–01(a), (b), and (f)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article – Health – General
Section 19–4C–01 and 19–4C–02 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4C. Home Health Care Provider Directory”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

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

(a) On or before December 31, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with stakeholders, including the Maryland Department of Aging, trade associations of residential service agencies, consumer organizations, and employee organizations representing health care workers, shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online directory of home health care providers for purposes of:

(1) allowing an individual seeking home health care services to identify a home health care provider in a statewide directory based on specified criteria, such as language proficiency, certifications, previous experience, or special skills; and

(2) supporting statewide communication to home health care providers for:

(i) retention and recruitment by helping individuals to become and remain enrolled as home and community-based services providers under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(ii) workforce development by connecting home health care providers to training and workforce development opportunities that support consumers' specific health needs; and

(iii) facilitating communication with home health care providers in the event of a public health or other emergency.

(b) The report shall include:

(1) information on which other states have established home health care provider directories;

(2) the types of information that would be appropriate to include in a home health care provider directory;

(3) a review of home health care provider directories already established by counties in the State;

(4) a review of existing home health care consumer resources and service programs already available through the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Department of Health Office of Health Care Quality; and

(5) based on items (1) through (4) of this subsection, recommendations on establishing and maintaining a home health care provider directory based on available federal and State funding for home health care directories.

~~Article — Health — General~~

~~19-4A-01.~~

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

~~(b) "Home health care" includes any of the following services:~~

~~(1) Audiology and speech pathology;~~

~~(2) Dietary and nutritional services;~~

~~(3) Drug services;~~

~~(4) Home health aide;~~

- ~~(5) Laboratory;~~
- ~~(6) Medical social services;~~
- ~~(7) Nursing;~~
- ~~(8) Occupational therapy;~~
- ~~(9) Physical therapy;~~
- ~~(10) Provision of invasive medical equipment; and~~
- ~~(11) Home medical equipment services.~~

~~(f) (1) "Residential service agency" means any person that is engaged in a nongovernmental business of employing or contracting with individuals to provide home health care for compensation to an unrelated sick or disabled individual in the residence of that individual.~~

~~(2) "Residential service agency" includes any agency that employs or contracts with individuals directly for hire as home health care providers.~~

~~(3) "Residential service agency" does not include:~~

~~(i) A home health agency that is licensed under the provisions of Subtitle 4 of this title;~~

~~(ii) A person required to be licensed as a home health agency under the provisions of Subtitle 4 of this title;~~

~~(iii) A home-based hospice care program that is licensed under the provisions of Subtitle 9 of this title;~~

~~(iv) A hospital that is licensed under the provisions of Subtitle 3 of this title;~~

~~(v) A related institution that is licensed under the provisions of Subtitle 3 of this title;~~

~~(vi) Personal care providers under the Medical Assistance Personal Care Program;~~

~~(vii) Any person practicing a health occupation that the person is authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article;~~

~~(viii) A nursing referral service agency that is licensed under Subtitle 4B of this title;~~

~~(ix) A group of persons licensed under the same title of the Health Occupations Article practicing as a business; or~~

~~(x) Residential rehabilitation services providers approved under regulations adopted by the State mental health authority.~~

~~SUBTITLE 4C. HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER DIRECTORY.~~

~~19-4C-01.~~

~~IN THIS SUBTITLE, “HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES HOME HEALTH CARE, AS DEFINED IN § 19-4A-01 OF THIS TITLE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS EMPLOYED BY OR CONTRACTS WITH A RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AGENCY.~~

~~19-4C-02.~~

~~(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ONLINE DIRECTORY OF EACH HOME CARE PROVIDER IN THE STATE.~~

~~(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MODEL THE DIRECTORY ON EXISTING DIRECTORIES.~~

~~(B) THE ONLINE DIRECTORY SHALL ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL SEEKING HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO SEARCH THE INFORMATION IN THE DIRECTORY AND IDENTIFY A HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BASED ON SPECIFIED CRITERIA, SUCH AS LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, CERTIFICATIONS, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, OR SPECIAL SKILLS.~~

~~(C) THE DIRECTORY MAY INCLUDE FUNCTIONALITIES THAT:~~

~~(1) CONNECT AN INDIVIDUAL SEEKING HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WITH A QUALIFIED PROVIDER BY:~~

~~(i) PROVIDING A STATEWIDE SYSTEM THROUGH WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL CAN IDENTIFY AND ACCESS AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND~~

~~(ii) ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL IN NAVIGATING THE HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES SYSTEM IN THE STATE;~~

~~(2) SUPPORT THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS BY:~~

~~(I) HELPING INDIVIDUALS TO BECOME AND REMAIN ENROLLED AS HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES PROVIDERS UNDER THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;~~

~~(II) ACTIVELY RECRUITING HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS THROUGH JOB ADVERTISEMENTS AND JOB FAIRS;~~

~~(III) CONNECTING HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND~~

~~(IV) FACILITATING ACCESS FOR HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS; AND~~

~~(3) FACILITATING COMMUNICATION WITH HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE EVENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH OR OTHER EMERGENCY.~~

~~(D) (1) THE DIRECTORY SHALL INCLUDE EACH PROVIDER'S:~~

~~(I) FULL NAME;~~

~~(II) IDENTIFICATION NUMBER;~~

~~(III) JOB TITLE;~~

~~(IV) COMPLETED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS;~~

~~(V) GENDER;~~

~~(VI) ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS; AND~~

~~(VII) ASSOCIATED RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AGENCY.~~

~~(2) THE DIRECTORY MAY INCLUDE EACH HOME CARE PROVIDER'S:~~

~~(I) LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY; AND~~

~~(II) WORK HISTORY.~~

~~(E) (1) EACH RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AGENCY SHALL:~~

~~(I) PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT EACH HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S:~~

- ~~1. FULL NAME;~~
- ~~2. ADDRESS;~~
- ~~3. E-MAIL ADDRESS; AND~~
- ~~4. PHONE NUMBER; AND~~

~~(H) ANNUALLY COLLECT AND SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE ONLINE DIRECTORY INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(2) IF A HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IS NOT EMPLOYED BY OR DOES NOT CONTRACT THROUGH A RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AGENCY, THE HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER MAY PROVIDE THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DISCLOSE TO THE PUBLIC THE INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (1)(I) 1, 2, AND 3 AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CHARGE A HOME HEALTH PROVIDER A FEE FOR MAINTAINING THE DIRECTORY.~~

~~(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.