

HOUSE BILL 871

J3

(5lr2372)

ENROLLED BILL

— Health and Government Operations/Finance —

Introduced by Delegates Bagnall, Cullison, Hill, ~~and Pena-Melnyk~~ Pena-Melnyk, Alston, Bhandari, Chisholm, Guzzone, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Szeliga, Taveras, Woods, Woorman, and Ross

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Services Cost Review Commission – Community Benefits – Community**
3 **Health Worker Workforce Program**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “community benefit” to include a certain
5 community health worker workforce program; authorizing a nonprofit hospital and
6 a community-based organization to establish ~~through a memorandum of~~
7 ~~understanding~~ a community health worker workforce program to provide a
8 community benefit; *providing that a partnership that establishes a community health*
9 *worker workforce program may be executed through a memorandum of*
10 *understanding*; establishing requirements for the memorandum of understanding;
11 ~~requiring~~ authorizing a partnership that establishes a community health worker
12 workforce program to provide health insurance to certain individuals under certain

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 circumstances; and generally relating to community health worker workforce
2 programs.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
4 Article – Health – General
5 Section 13–3701(a) and (c)
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 19–303(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 19–303.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 13–3701.

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

23 (c) “Community health worker” means a frontline public health worker who:

24 (1) Is a trusted member of, or has an unusually close understanding of, the
25 community being served;

26 (2) Serves as a liaison to, link to, or intermediary between health and social
27 services and the community to:

28 (i) Facilitate access to services; and

29 (ii) Improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery;

30 and

31 (3) Builds individual and community capacity by increasing health
32 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities, including:

33 (i) Outreach;

- 1 (ii) Community education;
- 2 (iii) The provision of information to support individuals in the
3 community;
- 4 (iv) Social support; and
- 5 (v) Advocacy.

6 19–303.

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

8 (2) “Commission” means the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

9 (3) (i) “Community benefit” means a planned, organized, and measured
10 activity that is intended to meet identified community health needs within a service area.

11 (ii) “Community benefit” may include:

- 12 1. A community health service;
- 13 2. Health professional education;
- 14 3. Research;
- 15 4. A financial contribution;
- 16 5. A community–building activity, including partnerships
17 with community–based organizations;
- 18 6. Charity care;
- 19 7. An activity described under subparagraph (i) of this
20 paragraph that is funded by a foundation;
- 21 8. A mission–driven health service;
- 22 9. An operation related to an activity described under
23 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; [and]
- 24 10. Financial or in–kind support of the Maryland Behavioral
25 Health Crisis Response System; **AND**

1 **11. A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE**
2 **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19–303.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

3 (4) “Community Benefit Reporting Workgroup” means the Community
4 Benefit Reporting Workgroup established in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

5 (5) “Community health needs assessment” means the process required by
6 the Affordable Care Act by which unmet community health care needs and priorities are
7 identified by a nonprofit hospital in accordance with § 501(r)(3) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code.

9 **19–303.1.**

10 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER” HAS THE MEANING
11 STATED IN § 13–3701 OF THIS ARTICLE.

12 (B) (1) A COMMUNITY BENEFIT UNDER § 19–303 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY
13 INCLUDE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND A
14 COMMUNITY–BASED ORGANIZATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER
15 WORKFORCE PROGRAM.

16 (2) THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER
17 WORKFORCE PROGRAM SHALL BE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO PATIENTS OF A
18 NONPROFIT HOSPITAL THAT ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES AND
19 ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH.

20 (C) (1) A PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION ~~SHALL~~ MAY
21 BE EXECUTED THROUGH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN A
22 NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND A COMMUNITY–BASED ORGANIZATION.

23 (2) THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SHALL INCLUDE:

24 (I) THE PROGRAM DESIGN;

25 (II) GOALS FOR PATIENT HEALTH OUTCOMES;

26 (III) IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES;

27 (IV) CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT;

28 (V) DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND REPORTING
29 STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS THAT ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE
30 FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL HEALTH
31 INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; AND

1 **(VI) AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND**
2 **THE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION IDENTIFYING WHICH PARTY WILL BE**
3 **RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

4 **1. RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING THE COMMUNITY**
5 **HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE;**

6 **2. SUPERVISING THE WORKFORCE IN THE SETTINGS IN**
7 **WHICH THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO PATIENTS;**

8 **3. TRAINING THE WORKFORCE; AND**

9 **4. PROVIDING EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH**
10 **INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.**

11 **(D) A PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION ~~SHALL~~ MAY**
12 **PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER**
13 **FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT HAVE HEALTH**
14 **INSURANCE COVERAGE AND REQUESTS COVERAGE.**

15 **(E) A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION**
16 **MAY COLLABORATE TO IDENTIFY FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS COSTS**
17 **ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY WITHIN THE**
18 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**
19 **PARTNERSHIP.**

20 **(F) SUBJECT TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW GOVERNING COMMUNITY**
21 **BENEFITS AND ON THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES, A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL MAY**
22 **PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION TO COVER**
23 **THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY WITHIN THE**
24 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**
25 **PARTNERSHIP.**

26 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
27 **October 1, 2025.**