

# HOUSE BILL 871

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By: **Delegates Bagnall, Cullison, Hill, and Pena–Melnyk**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

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; establishing requirements for the memorandum of  
9 understanding; requiring a partnership that establishes a community health worker  
10 workforce program to provide health insurance to certain individuals under certain  
11 circumstances; and generally relating to community health worker workforce  
12 programs.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Health – General  
15 Section 13–3701(a) and (c)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – Health – General  
20 Section 19–303(a)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 BY adding to  
24 Article – Health – General  
25 Section 19–303.1  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 13–3701.

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

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

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

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

11 (i) Facilitate access to services; and

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

13 and

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

16 (i) Outreach;

17 (ii) Community education;

18 (iii) The provision of information to support individuals in the  
19 community;

20 (iv) Social support; and

21 (v) Advocacy.

22 19–303.

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

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

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

27 (ii) “Community benefit” may include:

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

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

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

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

**19–303.1.**

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

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

1           **(2) THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER**  
2 **WORKFORCE PROGRAM SHALL BE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO PATIENTS OF A**  
3 **NONPROFIT HOSPITAL THAT ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES AND**  
4 **ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH.**

5           **(C) (1) A PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE**  
6 **EXECUTED THROUGH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN A**  
7 **NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**

8           **(2) THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SHALL INCLUDE:**

9                   **(I) THE PROGRAM DESIGN;**

10                   **(II) GOALS FOR PATIENT HEALTH OUTCOMES;**

11                   **(III) IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES;**

12                   **(IV) CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT;**

13                   **(V) DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND REPORTING**  
14 **STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS THAT ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE**  
15 **FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL HEALTH**  
16 **INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; AND**

17                   **(VI) AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND**  
18 **THE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION IDENTIFYING WHICH PARTY WILL BE**  
19 **RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

20                           **1. RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING THE COMMUNITY**  
21 **HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE;**

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

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

25                           **4. PROVIDING EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH**  
26 **INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.**

27           **(D) A PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE**  
28 **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER FOR THE**  
29 **DURATION OF THE PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT HAVE HEALTH**  
30 **INSURANCE COVERAGE AND REQUESTS COVERAGE.**

1           **(E) A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION**  
2 **MAY COLLABORATE TO IDENTIFY FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS COSTS**  
3 **ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY WITHIN THE**  
4 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
5 **PARTNERSHIP.**

6           **(F) SUBJECT TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW GOVERNING COMMUNITY**  
7 **BENEFITS AND ON THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES, A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL MAY**  
8 **PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION TO COVER**  
9 **THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY WITHIN THE**  
10 **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
11 **PARTNERSHIP.**

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