

# HOUSE BILL 1289

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HB 1396/24 – HGO

5lr3397

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By: **Delegates Howard, Buckel, and Hornberger**  
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs – Discharge of Patients and Referral**  
3 **Services – Standards**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish by  
5 regulation standards relating to the discharge of patients from drug and alcohol  
6 treatment programs and certain referral services offered to patients by certain drug  
7 and alcohol treatment programs; and generally relating to the Maryland Department  
8 of Health and standards applicable to drug and alcohol treatment programs in the  
9 State.

10 BY adding to  
11 Article – Health – General  
12 Section 7.5–402.1  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 **7.5–402.1.**

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

21 (2) “ASAM LEVEL 3.1 SERVICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
22 7.5–601 OF THIS TITLE.

23 (3) “TREATMENT PROGRAM” MEANS AN ENTITY THAT:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (I) PROVIDES TREATMENT, CARE, OR REHABILITATION FOR  
2 PATIENTS WHO SHOW THE EFFECTS OF DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE;

3 (II) REPRESENTS OR ADVERTISES ITSELF AS AN ALCOHOL OR  
4 OTHER DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM; AND

5 (III) IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATION FROM THE  
6 ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT SERVICES IN THE  
7 STATE.

8 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH BY REGULATION  
9 STANDARDS FOR THE DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS FROM TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

10 (2) THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN REGULATION UNDER  
11 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

12 (I) REQUIRE THAT A DISCHARGE FROM A TREATMENT  
13 PROGRAM BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE PATIENT'S MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE  
14 USE DISORDER DIAGNOSIS;

15 (II) 1. PROHIBIT A TREATMENT PROGRAM FROM  
16 DISCHARGING THE PATIENT IF THE PATIENT:

17 A. WILL BE HOMELESS OR RESIDE IN A HOMELESS  
18 SHELTER ON DISCHARGE; AND

19 B. NEEDS TO RECEIVE CARE IN A RESIDENTIAL  
20 PROGRAM BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED OR UNDER THE TREATMENT  
21 PLAN PREPARED FOR THE PATIENT; AND

22 2. REQUIRE A TREATMENT PROGRAM TO REFER THE  
23 PATIENT WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA UNDER ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM TO RECEIVE CARE  
24 IN A HALFWAY HOUSE THAT PROVIDES ASAM LEVEL 3.1 SERVICES OR AN  
25 APPROPRIATE RECOVERY RESIDENCE IF THE PATIENT IS WILLING TO RECEIVE THIS  
26 LEVEL OF CARE;

27 (III) BEFORE OR AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE, REQUIRE A  
28 TREATMENT PROGRAM TO REFER AND FACILITATE ENTRY OF A PATIENT INTO A  
29 PROGRAM OR SERVICE IDENTIFIED AS A NEED FOR THE PATIENT UNDER THE  
30 ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED OR UNDER THE TREATMENT PLAN PREPARED FOR THE  
31 PATIENT, INCLUDING PROGRAMS OR SERVICES TO:

1           **1. ADDRESS NEEDS RELATING TO:**

2           **A. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH;**

3           **B. EMPLOYMENT OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT;**

4           **C. DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT AT THE ASAM**  
5 **LEVEL APPROPRIATE FOR THE PATIENT;**

6           **D. LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND ASSISTANCE;**

7           **E. FAMILY AND SOCIAL MATTERS; AND**

8           **F. EDUCATION; AND**

9           **2. PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALIZED**  
10 **INTERVENTIONS FOR THE PATIENT, INCLUDING:**

11           **A. SHORT- AND LONG-RANGE TREATMENT;**

12           **B. CLINICAL SERVICES, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL,**  
13 **GROUP, AND FAMILY COUNSELING;**

14           **C. SELF-HELP GROUPS; AND**

15           **D. OTHER ANCILLARY SERVICES SPECIFIED IN THE**  
16 **TREATMENT PLAN;**

17           **(IV) IF THE PATIENT IS TRANSITIONING FROM ONE**  
18 **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM TO ANOTHER RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**  
19 **PROGRAM, REQUIRE THAT THE REFERRAL FOR ANY OUTPATIENT SERVICES LISTED**  
20 **UNDER ITEM (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND NOT PROVIDED BY THE RECEIVING**  
21 **TREATMENT PROGRAM BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE TRANSFER OF THE PATIENT TO**  
22 **THE RECEIVING TREATMENT PROGRAM; AND**

23           **(V) IF THE PATIENT IS TRANSITIONING TO A HOMELESS**  
24 **SHELTER, REQUIRE THAT THE REFERRAL FOR ANY OUTPATIENT SERVICES LISTED**  
25 **UNDER ITEM (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND NOT PROVIDED BY THE HOMELESS**  
26 **SHELTER BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE TRANSFER OF THE PATIENT TO THE HOMELESS**  
27 **SHELTER.**

28           **(C) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO:**

1                   **(I) AN ASAM LEVEL 3.3 CLINICALLY MANAGED MEDIUM**  
2 **INTENSITY TREATMENT PROGRAM; AND**

3                   **(II) AN ASAM LEVEL 3.5 CLINICALLY MANAGED HIGH**  
4 **INTENSITY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM.**

5                   **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH BY REGULATION**  
6 **STANDARDS FOR REFERRAL SERVICES OFFERED TO PATIENTS BY TREATMENT**  
7 **PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO THIS SUBSECTION.**

8                   **(3) THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION UNDER**  
9 **PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

10                   **(I) 1. REQUIRE A TREATMENT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT AN**  
11 **AGREEMENT REFERRING A PATIENT TO RECEIVE SERVICES WITHIN 3 WORKING**  
12 **DAYS AFTER SIGNING AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN WHEN THE PLAN**  
13 **INCLUDES REFERRAL SERVICES FOR:**

14                           **A. MEDICAL CARE;**

15                           **B. SERVICES THROUGH THE MARYLAND DIVISION OF**  
16 **REHABILITATION SERVICES;**

17                           **C. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;**

18                           **D. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT;**

19                           **E. LEGAL REPRESENTATION OR ASSISTANCE;**

20                           **F. FAMILY SERVICES; OR**

21                           **G. SOCIAL SERVICES; AND**

22                           **2. REQUIRE THE INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN TO**  
23 **INCLUDE A PLAN FOR HOW THE PATIENT WILL ACCESS THE SERVICES LISTED UNDER**  
24 **ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM; AND**

25                   **(II) REQUIRE THAT TREATMENT PROGRAM REFERRAL**  
26 **AGREEMENTS REMAIN VALID IN THE EVENT OF A PATIENT'S DISCHARGE FROM A**  
27 **TREATMENT PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF RECEIPT OF THE REFERRAL**  
28 **SERVICES BY THE PATIENT.**

29                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
30 2025, the Maryland Department of Health shall submit a report to the Governor and, in

1 accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly that  
2 includes:

3 (1) the status of the adoption and revision of regulations to implement the  
4 requirements of this Act and Chapter 580 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017; and

5 (2) a plan for the enforcement of the statutory and regulatory requirements  
6 under this Act and Chapter 580 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
8 1, 2025.