

HOUSE BILL 1478

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By: **Delegates Hill, Kaiser, Kaufman, Terrasa, Valderrama, and Woorman**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Home Health Care Providers – Directory**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish and
4 maintain an online directory of each home health care provider; requiring that the
5 directory allow an individual to search the directory and identify a home health care
6 provider based on specified criteria; and generally relating to home health care
7 providers.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 19–4A–01(a), (b), and (f)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 19–4C–01 and 19–4C–02 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4C. Home
16 Health Care Provider Directory”
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Health – General**

22 19–4A–01.

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

24 (b) “Home health care” includes any of the following services:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) Audiology and speech pathology;
- 2 (2) Dietary and nutritional services;
- 3 (3) Drug services;
- 4 (4) Home health aide;
- 5 (5) Laboratory;
- 6 (6) Medical social services;
- 7 (7) Nursing;
- 8 (8) Occupational therapy;
- 9 (9) Physical therapy;
- 10 (10) Provision of invasive medical equipment; and
- 11 (11) Home medical equipment services.

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

16 (2) “Residential service agency” includes any agency that employs or
17 contracts with individuals directly for hire as home health care providers.

18 (3) “Residential service agency” does not include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (viii) A nursing referral service agency that is licensed under Subtitle
6 4B of this title;

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

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

11 **SUBTITLE 4C. HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER DIRECTORY.**

12 **19-4C-01.**

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

17 **19-4C-02.**

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

20 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MODEL THE DIRECTORY ON EXISTING**
21 **DIRECTORIES.**

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

27 **(C) THE DIRECTORY MAY INCLUDE FUNCTIONALITIES THAT:**

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

1 **(I) PROVIDING A STATEWIDE SYSTEM THROUGH WHICH AN**
2 **INDIVIDUAL CAN IDENTIFY AND ACCESS AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON HOME**
3 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND**

4 **(II) ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL IN NAVIGATING THE HOME- AND**
5 **COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES SYSTEM IN THE STATE;**

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

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

11 **(II) ACTIVELY RECRUITING HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**
12 **THROUGH JOB ADVERTISEMENTS AND JOB FAIRS;**

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

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

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

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

20 **(I) FULL NAME;**

21 **(II) IDENTIFICATION NUMBER;**

22 **(III) JOB TITLE;**

23 **(IV) COMPLETED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS;**

24 **(V) GENDER;**

25 **(VI) ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS; AND**

26 **(VII) ASSOCIATED RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AGENCY.**

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

1 (I) LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY; AND

2 (II) WORK HISTORY.

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

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

6 1. FULL NAME;

7 2. ADDRESS;

8 3. E-MAIL ADDRESS; AND

9 4. PHONE NUMBER; AND

10 (II) ANNUALLY COLLECT AND SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT
11 THE ONLINE DIRECTORY INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS
12 SECTION IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

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

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

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