

SENATE BILL 986

J1, J3

5lr2904

By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Patient Navigation Services – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to conduct a study on
4 patient navigation services in the State; and generally relating to patient navigation
5 services.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) In this section, “patient navigation” means individualized assistance offered
9 to a patient with cancer and the patient’s family and caregivers at the health care facility
10 at which the patient is receiving care.

11 (b) The Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with stakeholders
12 including stakeholders with policy, clinical, or personal expertise, shall conduct a study on
13 patient navigation services that help a patient overcome health care system barriers and
14 facilitate timely access to quality health and psychosocial care from prediagnosis through
15 all phases of the cancer experience.

16 (c) The Maryland Department of Health shall:

17 (1) in conducting the study required under subsection (b) of this section:

18 (i) assess the availability of patient navigation services; and

19 (ii) analyze the barriers to accessing patient navigation services; and

20 (2) recommend policy, legislative, and budgetary initiatives to improve
21 patient navigation services in the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) On or before December 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health shall
2 report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with §
3 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2025.