

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1478

(Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Public Health - Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), by December 31, 2025, to report on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online directory of home health care providers to (1) allow an individual seeking home health care services to identify a home health care provider based on specified criteria and (2) support statewide communication to home health care providers. MDH must consult with specified stakeholders, including the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), and submit the report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH can consult with stakeholders and submit the required report with existing budgeted resources. MDOA can consult with MDH with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: MDH, in consultation with stakeholders, must report on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online directory of home health care providers for the purposes of:

- allowing an individual seeking home health care services to identify a home health care provider in a statewide directory based on specified criteria, such as language proficiency, certifications, previous experience, or special skills; and
- supporting statewide communication to home health care providers for (1) retention and recruitment by helping individuals to become and remain enrolled as home- and community-based services providers under Medicaid; (2) workforce development by connecting home health care providers to training and workforce development opportunities that support consumers' specific health needs; and (3) facilitating communication with home health care providers in the event of a public health or other emergency.

The report must include (1) information on which other states have established home health care provider directories; (2) the types of information that would be appropriate to include in a home health care provider directory; (3) a review of home health care provider directories already established by counties in the State; (4) a review of existing home health care consumer resources and service programs already available through the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ); and (5) recommendations on establishing and maintaining a home health care provider directory based on available federal and State funding for home health care directories.

Current Law: “Home health care” includes any of the following services: (1) audiology and speech pathology; (2) dietary and nutritional services; (3) drug services; (4) home health aide; (5) laboratory; (6) medical social services; (7) nursing; (8) occupational therapy; (9) physical therapy; (10) provision of invasive medical equipment; and (11) home medical equipment services.

A residential service agency (RSA) is an agency that employs or contracts with individuals to provide at least one home health care service for compensation to an unrelated sick or disabled individual. Some RSAs have nurses that provide skilled care and certified caregivers that provide assistance with activities of daily living. Other RSAs provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy, or durable medical equipment. RSAs are licensed by OHCQ in MDH. As of February 26, 2025, there were 2,710 licensed RSAs in Maryland.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2025
km/jc Third Reader - March 21, 2025
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