

Chapter 605

(Senate Bill 892)

AN ACT concerning

Health Occupations, Public Health – ~~Perimenopausal, Menopausal, and Postmenopausal~~ Conditions, and Insurance – Menopause – Provider Training Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care

FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness; requiring ~~certain~~ health occupations boards that require ~~a licensee~~ licensees or certificate ~~holder~~ holders to complete certain continuing education ~~requirements as a condition of renewal to grant at least a certain amount of continuing education credits for completing continuing education on perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal evaluation and treatment to grant a certain number of hours for every hour of continuing education for menopause and menopause-associated symptoms; authorizing certain health occupations boards to establish a maximum number of certain continuing education credits granted; requiring the Department to identify a certain training program in consultation with certain professional associations; requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the evaluation and management of menopause and menopause-associated conditions; requiring ~~the Maryland Health Care Commission,~~ the Maryland Commission for ~~Women,~~ Women and the Maryland Department of Health to take certain actions related to perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions; and generally relating to ~~perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions~~ provider training, health insurance coverage, policy initiatives, and access to care related to menopause.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 13–201
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 13–203
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Health Occupations
 Section 1–231
 Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Insurance

Section 15–864

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

13–201.

In this subtitle, “Advisory Council” means the State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness.

13–203.

(a) The Advisory Council consists of [34] voting members appointed by the Secretary.

(b) The following members shall serve without term limits:

(1) The Secretary [of Health], or the Secretary’s designee;

(2) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent’s designee;

(3) The Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary’s designee;

(4) The Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;

(5) A representative of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities; [and]

(6) A representative of the Maryland Association of County Health Officers; AND

(7) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE.

(c) The following members are subject to term limits:

- (1) One representative of the American Heart Association Mid–Atlantic, Inc., nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;
- (2) One representative of the Arthritis Foundation, Mid–Atlantic Region, Maryland, nominated by the Executive Director of the Foundation;
- (3) One representative of the American Diabetes Association, Maryland Chapter, nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;
- (4) One representative of Johns Hopkins Medicine, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine;
- (5) One representative of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, nominated by the Executive Director of MedChi;
- (6) One representative of the University of Maryland Medical Center and University of Maryland School of Medicine, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Center and the Dean of the School of Medicine;
- (7) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, nominated by the Executive Director of the Chapter;
- (8) One representative of the Maryland Nurses Association, nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;
- (9) One representative of the Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, nominated by the President of the Academy;
- (10) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, nominated by the President of the Chapter; [and]
- (11) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERTISE IN PERIMENOPAUSAL, MENOPAUSAL, AND POSTMENOPAUSAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT; AND**
- (12) **[Eighteen] SEVENTEEN** members of the public, who may include:
 - (i) Individuals with a chronic disease or family members of an individual with a chronic disease;
 - (ii) Licensed health care providers;
 - (iii) Individuals with a physical fitness background;
 - (iv) Employers or representatives of the business sector;
 - (v) Representatives of health insurers;

- (vi) Representatives of community-based organizations; and
 - (vii) Individuals with expressed interest in health and wellness.
- (d) (1) This subsection applies to members who are subject to term limits.
- (2) The term of a member is 4 years.
- (3) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Advisory Council on October 1, 2017.
- (4) A member may serve two consecutive full terms.
- (5) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
- (6) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
- (7) A member who serves two consecutive full 4-year terms may not be reappointed for 4 years after the completion of those terms.
- (e) If a vacancy occurs, the Secretary promptly shall appoint a successor.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

Article – Health Occupations

1-231.

~~(A) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD UNDER TITLE 7, 9, 20, OR 21 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD THAT REQUIRES A LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION AS A CONDITION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE SHALL GRANT AT LEAST 2 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR EVERY HOUR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ON PERIMENOPAUSAL, MENOPAUSAL, AND POSTMENOPAUSAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT THAT THE LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER COMPLETES.~~

~~(2) A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD MAY ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS THAT MAY BE GRANTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER WHO EVALUATES AND MANAGES MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE.

(B) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD THAT REQUIRES A LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION AS A CONDITION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE SHALL GRANT AT LEAST 2 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR EVERY 1 HOUR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ON MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS COMPLETED BY THE LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AT LEAST ONE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LICENSEES AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS REGARDING THE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS THAT MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) IN IDENTIFYING A TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING THE MENOPAUSE SOCIETY.

(D) A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS THAT MAY BE GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION ~~2~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland Health Care Commission shall read as follows:

~~(1) in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Insurance Administration, and the Maryland Commission for Women, evaluate coverage and barriers to coverage of the evaluation and treatment of perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions, including coverage of hormone replacement therapy and preauthorization and step therapy requirements; and~~

~~(2) on or before December 1, 2026, shall report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.~~

Article – Insurance15–864.(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

(1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON AN EXPENSE–INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

(2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

(B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE–ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS AS DETERMINED BY THE TREATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.

SECTION ~~4~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Commission for Women shall:

(1) evaluate opportunities for State policy initiatives that improve the health and economic security of individuals in the State with perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions; and

(2) on or before October 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION ~~5~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of Health shall:

(1) in consultation with the State Community Health Worker Advisory Committee, evaluate and develop an action plan to increase access to perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal health care services through the outreach of community health workers to consumers; and

(2) on or before October 1, 2027, submit its evaluation and recommended action plan to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION ~~6~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of Health shall:

(1) in consultation with health care provider professional associations and institutions of higher education, including community colleges, evaluate methods for increasing opportunities for clinical education, including postgraduate education, on perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal evaluation and treatment; and

(2) on or before October 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2027.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

SECTION ~~7~~ 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section ~~2~~ 1 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

SECTION ~~8~~ 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in ~~Section 7~~ Sections 7 and 8 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.