

# HOUSE BILL 554

P5

6lr2431

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By: **The Speaker**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Legislative Committees – Renaming and Legislative Policy**  
3 **Committee Membership**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the Legislative Policy Committee; updating  
5 the names of certain committees of the General Assembly that receive certain  
6 required reports and notices; and generally relating to legislative committees and  
7 the membership of the Legislative Policy Committee.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Health – General

10 Section 13–1002(e)(3)(iii) and (g), 13–1102(f)(3)(iii) and (h), 15–146(b), 19–1409(b)(3),  
11 19–14C–02(a), and 20–1701(c)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

15 Article – Health – General

16 Section 19–1409(a)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Insurance

21 Section 31–106(c)(2) and 31–110(g)(1)

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – Labor and Employment  
4 Section 5–308.1(b)  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2025 Replacement Volume)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – State Government  
9 Section 2–403(a)(2) and (b)(2) and 9–1007(b)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 13–1002.

16 (e) (3) (iii) If the Department transfers any money among the components  
17 of the Program as authorized under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the Department  
18 shall report the transfer to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance  
19 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Health [and Government  
20 Operations] Committee within 60 days of the transfer.

21 (g) No later than January 31 of each year, the Department shall report to the  
22 Governor and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and  
23 Taxation Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and  
24 House Health [and Government Operations] Committee:

25 (1) The amount of money that was allocated to each component of the  
26 Program during:

27 (i) The prior fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated at  
28 the end of that year; and

29 (ii) The current fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated  
30 as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year; and

31 (2) The amount of money that was distributed to a county as a Local Public  
32 Health Tobacco Grant during:

33 (i) The prior fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated at  
34 the end of that year; and

1 (ii) The current fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated  
2 as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year.

3 13–1102.

4 (f) (3) (iii) If the Department transfers any money among the components  
5 of the Program as authorized under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the Department  
6 shall report the transfer to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance  
7 Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Health [and Government  
8 Operations] Committee within 60 days after the transfer.

9 (h) No later than January 31 of each year, the Department shall report to the  
10 Governor and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, Senate Budget and  
11 Taxation Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and  
12 House Health [and Government Operations] Committee:

13 (1) The amount of money that was allocated to each component of the  
14 Program during:

15 (i) The prior fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated at  
16 the end of that year; and

17 (ii) The current fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated  
18 as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year; and

19 (2) The amount of money that was distributed to a county as a Local Public  
20 Health Cancer Grant during:

21 (i) The prior fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated at  
22 the end of that year; and

23 (ii) The current fiscal year that remained unspent and unobligated  
24 as of December 31 of the preceding calendar year.

25 15–146.

26 (b) At least 90 days prior to making any change to medical eligibility for Program  
27 long-term care services, including nursing facility services, home- and community-based  
28 waiver services, and other services that require a nursing facility level of care, the  
29 Department shall provide a report to:

30 (1) The Senate Finance Committee and the House Health [and  
31 Government Operations] Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government  
32 Article; and

33 (2) The Medicaid Advisory Committee.

1 19-1409.

2 (a) There is an Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and  
3 Assisted Living Facilities.

4 (b) The Oversight Committee shall consist of the following members:

5 (3) Two members of the House Health [and Government Operations]  
6 Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7 19-14C-02.

8 (a) (1) If a State-owned nursing home that is operated by a contractor receives  
9 a deficiency from or is subject to an enforcement action by a monitoring agency, within 15  
10 days after the final survey finding, the department charged with oversight of the nursing  
11 home shall provide notice of the deficiency or enforcement action to:

12 (i) The Governor;

13 (ii) In accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the  
14 Senate Finance Committee, the House Health [and Government Operations] Committee,  
15 and the members of the General Assembly who represent the district in which the nursing  
16 home is located; and

17 (iii) The local governing body of the county in which the nursing home  
18 is located.

19 (2) Within 30 days after the contractor's final acceptance of a plan of  
20 correction or completion of an informal dispute resolution, the department charged with  
21 oversight of the nursing home shall provide to the Governor and, in accordance with §  
22 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Health  
23 [and Government Operations] Committee, and the members of the General Assembly who  
24 represent the district in which the nursing home is located:

25 (i) A statement of the deficiencies found by the monitoring agency;

26 (ii) The plan of correction or results of the informal dispute  
27 resolution; and

28 (iii) All communications from the monitoring agency regarding  
29 survey activities conducted at the nursing home.

30 20-1701.

31 (c) The Department shall provide written notice to the Senate Finance  
32 Committee and the House Health [and Government Operations] Committee before

1 submitting any proposed regulation under subsection (b) of this section to the Maryland  
2 Register for publication.

### 3 **Article – Insurance**

4 31–106.

5 (c) (2) Unless waived by the chairs of the committees, at least 30 days before  
6 submitting any proposed regulation to the Maryland Register for publication, the Board  
7 shall submit the proposed regulation to the Senate Finance Committee and the House  
8 Health [and Government Operations] Committee.

9 31–110.

10 (g) Before employing an alternative contracting option or active purchasing  
11 strategy, the Exchange:

12 (1) on or after December 1, but not later than the first day of the next  
13 regular session of the General Assembly, shall submit to the Senate Finance Committee  
14 and the House Health [and Government Operations] Committee, in accordance with §  
15 2–1257 of the State Government Article, a plan for the use of the alternative contracting  
16 option or active purchasing strategy, including an analysis of:

17 (i) the objectives to be achieved through use of the alternative  
18 contracting option or active purchasing strategy; and

19 (ii) the impact on the insurance markets inside and outside the  
20 Exchange and on consumers; and

### 21 **Article – Labor and Employment**

22 5–308.1.

23 (b) The Commissioner shall submit notice regarding any modifications made to,  
24 or directives issued interpreting, the federal Bloodborne Pathogen Standard after  
25 November 5, 1999 and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, make  
26 recommendations for any legislative changes to the House Health [and Government  
27 Operations] Committee, the Senate [Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs]  
28 FINANCE Committee, and the General Assembly within 30 days of the issuance of  
29 modifications to the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

### 30 **Article – State Government**

31 2–403.

32 (a) The Legislative Policy Committee consists of the following 28 members:

- 1 (2) from the House:
- 2 (i) the Speaker;
- 3 (ii) the Speaker Pro Tem;
- 4 (iii) the Majority Leader;
- 5 (iv) the Chair of the Appropriations Committee;
- 6 (v) the Chair of the Health [and Government Operations]  
7 Committee;
- 8 (vi) the Chair of the Economic Matters Committee;
- 9 (vii) the Chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee;
- 10 **(VIII) THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS**  
11 **COMMITTEE;**
- 12 **[(viii)] (IX)** the Chair of the Judiciary Committee;
- 13 **[(ix)] (X)** the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee;
- 14 **[(x)] (XI)** the Minority Leader; and
- 15 **[(xi)] (XII)** 1. **[4] 3** other Delegates, appointed by the Speaker and  
16 approved by majority vote of the House; or
- 17 2. if a Delegate simultaneously serves in 2 of the positions  
18 set forth in items (ii) through **[(ix)] (X)**, inclusive, of this item, **[5] 4** other Delegates,  
19 appointed by the Speaker and approved by majority vote of the House.
- 20 (b) (2) As far as possible, the Delegates appointed by the Speaker, under  
21 subsection **[(a)(2)(xi)] (A)(2)(XII)** of this section, shall be representative of the various  
22 sections and interests of the State.

23 9–1007.

24 (b) At the request of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the  
25 Chair of the Senate [Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs] Committee **ON**  
26 **EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**, or the Chair of the House [Health and]  
27 Government [Operations], **LABOR, AND ELECTIONS** Committee, the State Archivist shall  
28 review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding State  
29 designations under Title 7 of the General Provisions Article.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
2 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.