

HOUSE BILL 825

J1, P1

6lr1508

By: **Delegates Woods, Roberts, Bhandari, Coley, Cullison, Fair, Ghrist, Harrison, Martinez, Patterson, Roberson, Sample-Hughes, Simmons, Stinnett, Taveras, Taylor, and Toles**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Brain Health – Guidelines, Grant Fund, and Commemorative Month**
3 **(Tahjai’s Law)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim the month of May to be
5 Brain Health and Chronic Headache Awareness Month; requiring the proclamation
6 to align with national Go Gray in May brain tumor awareness initiatives;
7 establishing the Maryland Brain Health Grant Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund;
8 requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with certain entities,
9 to develop guidelines on brain health evaluations; requiring the Department to
10 develop recommendations on brain health screening intervals and insurance parity;
11 and generally relating to brain health.

12 BY renumbering

13 Article – General Provisions
14 Section 7–504 through 7–507
15 to be Section 7–505 through 7–508, respectively
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – General Provisions
20 Section 7–504
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Health – General

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 20–2501 and 20–2502 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. Brain
2 Health”; and 24–2801 and 24–2802 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 28.
3 Maryland Brain Health Grant Fund”

4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That Section(s) 7–504 through 7–507 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code
8 of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–505 through 7–508, respectively.

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

11 **Article – General Provisions**

12 **7–504.**

13 (A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY AS
14 BRAIN HEALTH AND CHRONIC HEADACHE AWARENESS MONTH.

15 (B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL ALIGN WITH NATIONAL GO GRAY IN MAY
16 BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS INITIATIVES.

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 **SUBTITLE 25. BRAIN HEALTH.**

19 **20–2501.**

20 (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH HEALTH CARE
21 PRACTITIONERS, PAYORS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL DEVELOP
22 GUIDELINES THAT PROMOTE THE INCORPORATION OF A RISK–BASED BRAIN
23 HEALTH EVALUATION INTO A ROUTINE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND WELLNESS
24 VISIT.

25 (2) AN EVALUATION INCLUDED IN THE GUIDELINES MAY INCLUDE:

26 (I) A NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT;

27 (II) AN EVIDENCE–BASED DECISION TOOL; AND

28 (III) A REFERRAL PROTOCOL FOR NONINVASIVE IMAGING.

29 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS:

1 **(1) ESTABLISHING SCREENING INTERVALS FOR BRAIN HEALTH**
2 **EVALUATIONS; AND**

3 **(2) PROMOTING INSURANCE COVERAGE PARITY FOR MEDICALLY**
4 **NECESSARY BRAIN HEALTH DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS.**

5 **20–2502.**

6 **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR BEGINNING IN 2026, THE**
7 **DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
8 **2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT**
9 **THAT INCLUDES STATEWIDE DATA FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR**
10 **ON:**

11 **(1) BRAIN TUMOR AND CHRONIC HEADACHE PREVALENCE;**

12 **(2) EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS RELATED TO BRAIN TUMORS**
13 **AND CHRONIC HEADACHES;**

14 **(3) ACCESS TO DIAGNOSTIC BRAIN IMAGING; AND**

15 **(4) BARRIERS TO BRAIN HEALTH–RELATED CARE.**

16 **SUBTITLE 28. MARYLAND BRAIN HEALTH GRANT FUND.**

17 **24–2801.**

18 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(B) “BRAIN HEALTH SERVICES” INCLUDES PREVENTION, EVALUATION,**
21 **DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, THERAPY, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT RELATED TO:**

22 **(1) A BRAIN TUMOR;**

23 **(2) A CHRONIC HEADACHE;**

24 **(3) A MIGRAINE;**

25 **(4) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY;**

26 **(5) A CEREBROVASCULAR CONDITION; AND**

1 **(II) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN**
2 **ADMINISTERING THE FUND; AND**

3 **(III) ANY OTHER USE DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT AFTER THE CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF**
5 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

6 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT PERIODICALLY WITH THE**
7 **SOLID FOUNDATION, INC., RELEVANT CLINICAL EXPERTS, AND PATIENT ADVOCACY**
8 **GROUPS REGARDING THE USE OF THE FUND.**

9 **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**
10 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

11 **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**
12 **THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

13 **(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**
14 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

15 **(I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

16 **(1) ESTABLISH TRANSPARENT CRITERIA FOR AWARDING GRANTS**
17 **FROM THE FUND;**

18 **(2) PRIORITIZE PROVIDING GRANTS FROM THE FUND TO SUPPORT**
19 **ACTIVITIES IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES; AND**

20 **(3) ENSURE EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS**
21 **FROM THE FUND THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

22 **(J) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR BEGINNING IN 2026, THE**
23 **DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
24 **§ 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A**
25 **REPORT ON THE USE OF THE FUND DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL**
26 **YEAR.**

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for fiscal year 2028, the
28 Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation in an amount of \$500,000
29 to the Maryland Brain Health Grant Fund established under § 24-2802 of the Health –
30 General Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

1 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2027,
2 the Maryland Department of Health shall submit a report to the Governor and, in
3 accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

4 (1) the guidelines developed under § 20–2501(a) of the Health – General
5 Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act; and

6 (2) any recommendations developed under § 20–2501(b) of the Health –
7 General Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2026.