

HOUSE BILL 886

J5, J4, J1

6lr2213

By: **Delegates Hornberger and Lopez**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Certified Peer Recovery Specialists – Coverage Under the Maryland Medical**
3 **Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain
5 insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and
6 managed care organizations to provide coverage for services provided in any setting
7 by certain certified peer recovery specialists; requiring the Maryland Department of
8 Health to convene a certain workgroup on the certification process of peer recovery
9 specialists; and generally relating to certified peer recovery specialists.

10 BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 15–102.3(p) and 15–103(a)(2)(xxix)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 15–103(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxvii) and (xxviii)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

25 BY adding to

Article – Insurance

Section 15–864

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Health – General**

6 15–102.3.

7 **(P) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15–864 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE APPLY TO**
8 **MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SAME MANNER THEY APPLY TO CARRIERS.**

9 15–103.

10 (a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance
11 Program.

12 (2) The Program:

13 (xxvii) Beginning on January 1, 2026, if providing coverage for the
14 delivery of anesthesia, shall provide coverage for the delivery of anesthesia in accordance
15 with § 15–862 of the Insurance Article; [and]

16 (xxviii) Beginning on January 1, 2026, shall provide calcium score
17 testing in accordance with § 15–863 of the Insurance Article; AND

18 **(XXIX) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2027, SHALL PROVIDE**
19 **COVERAGE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS**
20 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15–864 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE.**

21 **Article – Insurance**

22 **15–864.**

23 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:**

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

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

1 **(B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR**
2 **SERVICES PROVIDED IN ANY SETTING BY A CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST**
3 **WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE MARYLAND ADDICTION AND BEHAVIORAL-HEALTH**
4 **PROFESSIONALS CERTIFICATION BOARD OR A SUCCESSOR ENTITY.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of
6 Health shall:

7 (1) convene a workgroup with the Maryland Addiction &
8 Behavioral-Health Professionals Certification Board and interested stakeholders to
9 identify ways to make the process of certifying peer recovery specialists more efficient,
10 including through reciprocity; and

11 (2) report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health
12 Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on its findings
13 and whether legislation is needed.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall
15 apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the
16 State on or after January 1, 2027.

17 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take
18 effect January 1, 2027.

19 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section
20 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.