

# HOUSE BILL 994

C2

(6lr1102)

*ENROLLED BILL*  
— *Economic Matters/Finance* —

Introduced by **Delegates Boaf, Holmes, and Taylor**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Business Regulation – Travel Services – Special Fund, Fees, and Surety**  
3 **Requirement**  
4 **(Don't You Worry (Wurie) Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Sellers of Travel Services Registration Fund as a  
6 special, nonlapsing fund in the Maryland Department of Labor; requiring that  
7 certain investment earnings be credited to the General Fund of the State; requiring  
8 the Secretary of Labor to annually calculate certain costs; authorizing the  
9 Department to set by regulation certain fees based on certain calculations;  
10 prohibiting certain fees from increasing by more than a certain amount each year;  
11 requiring certain providers of travel services to file with the Department proof of  
12 professional liability and errors and omissions liability in at least a certain amount;  
13 and generally relating to the financial security of providers of travel services.

14 BY adding to

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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.

*Italics* indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Article – Business Regulation

2 Section 2–106.17 and 2–106.18; and 17–2201 through 17–2203 to be under the new  
3 subtitle “Subtitle 22. Travel Services”

4 Annotated Code of Maryland

5 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Business Regulation**

9 **2–106.17.**

10 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE SELLERS OF TRAVEL SERVICES  
11 REGISTRATION FUND.

12 (B) (1) THERE IS A SELLERS OF TRAVEL SERVICES REGISTRATION  
13 FUND.

14 (2) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
15 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

16 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER  
17 TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 22 OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE COMPTROLLER.

18 (2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE FUND.

19 (D) THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO COVER THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTED  
20 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF FULFILLING THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY  
21 DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 22 OF THIS ARTICLE.

22 (E) THE SECRETARY OR A DESIGNEE OF THE SECRETARY SHALL  
23 ADMINISTER THE FUND.

24 (F) ~~THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL AUDIT THE ACCOUNTS AND~~  
25 ~~TRANSACTIONS OF THE FUND~~ MAY BE SUBJECT TO AUDIT AS PROVIDED IN § 2–1220  
26 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

27 (G) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE  
28 GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

29 **2–106.18.**

1 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ANNUALLY CALCULATE THE DIRECT AND  
2 INDIRECT COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE  
3 22 OF THIS ARTICLE.

4 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH FEES BASED ON THE  
5 CALCULATIONS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER THIS SECTION.

6 (C) EACH FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 17,  
7 SUBTITLE 22 OF THIS ARTICLE MAY NOT BE INCREASED ANNUALLY BY MORE THAN  
8 12.5% OF THE EXISTING AND CORRESPONDING FEES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER  
9 TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 22 OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 SUBTITLE 22. TRAVEL SERVICES.

11 17-2201.

12 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
13 INDICATED.

14 (B) "INDEPENDENT AGENT" MEANS A PERSON THAT OFFERS OR  
15 UNDERTAKES TO ARRANGE FOR OR PROVIDE THE TRAVEL SERVICES SPECIFIED IN  
16 SUBSECTION (C)(1)(II) OF THIS SECTION BUT DOES NOT:

17 (1) RECEIVE MONEY OR OTHER VALUABLE CONSIDERATION  
18 DIRECTLY FROM THE PURCHASER FOR THE SALE OF TRAVEL SERVICES OR FROM  
19 THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL SUPPLIER;

20 (2) POSSESS AT ANY TIME ANY UNISSUED TICKET STOCK OR TRAVEL  
21 DOCUMENT; OR

22 (3) HAVE THE ABILITY TO ISSUE TICKETS, VACATION CERTIFICATES,  
23 OR ANY OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

24 (C) (1) "SELLER OF TRAVEL" MEANS A PERSON THAT:

25 (I) IS LOCATED IN THE STATE OR OFFERS TO SELL TRAVEL  
26 SERVICES TO A PERSON LOCATED IN THE STATE;

27 (II) OFFERS OR UNDERTAKES TO ARRANGE OR PROVIDE FOR:

28 1. TRAVEL RESERVATIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS;

29 2. TICKETS FOR TRAVEL BY ANY MODE OF  
30 TRANSPORTATION;

1                                   3.     HOTEL OR MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS;

2                                   4.     CAR RENTALS; OR

3                                   5.     SIGHTSEEING TOURS; AND

4                                   (III) RECEIVES VALUABLE CONSIDERATION DIRECTLY FROM  
5 THE PURCHASER FOR THE SALE OF TRAVEL SERVICES OR FROM THE ULTIMATE  
6 TRAVEL SUPPLIER.

7                                   (2)   “SELLER OF TRAVEL” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

8                                   (I)    AN AIR CARRIER;

9                                   (II)   AN OCEAN CARRIER; ~~OR OR~~

10                                  (III) A HOTEL, MOTEL, PERSON THAT RENTS OR OPERATES A  
11 SHORT-TERM RENTAL UNIT AS DEFINED IN § 11-101 OF THE TAX – GENERAL  
12 ARTICLE FOR A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, SHORT-TERM RENTAL  
13 PLATFORM AS DEFINED IN § 11-101 OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE, OR SIMILAR  
14 LODGING ESTABLISHMENT THAT, IN THE COURSE OF SELLING, PROVIDING, OR  
15 ARRANGING TRANSIENT LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS AND RELATED SERVICES FOR  
16 ITS REGISTERED GUESTS:

17                                  1.     ARRANGES OR PROVIDES FOR TRANSPORTATION; AND

18                                  2.     DOES NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RECEIVE MONEY  
19 OR OTHER VALUABLE CONSIDERATION FOR ARRANGING OR PROVIDING  
20 TRANSPORTATION;

21                                  ~~(IV) A PERSON THAT RENTS OR OPERATES A SHORT TERM~~  
22 ~~RENTAL UNIT, AS DEFINED IN § 11-101 OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE, FOR A~~  
23 ~~PERIOD OF LESS THAN 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS; OR~~

24                                  ~~(V) A SHORT TERM RENTAL PLATFORM, AS DEFINED IN §~~  
25 ~~11-101 OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE.~~

26   17-2202.

27                                  (A) (1) EACH SELLER OF TRAVEL OR INDEPENDENT AGENT SHALL FILE  
28 ANNUALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT PROOF OF PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY AND  
29 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS INSURANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF AT LEAST \$1,000,000 AS  
30 REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE.

1           **(2) EACH SELLER OF TRAVEL SHALL FILE ANNUALLY WITH THE**  
2 **DEPARTMENT A LIST OF INDEPENDENT AGENTS AFFILIATED WITH THE SELLER OF**  
3 **TRAVEL.**

4           **(3) THE ANNUAL FILING FEE IS \$300.**

5           **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT RECEIVE VALUABLE CONSIDERATION IN PAYMENT**  
6 **FOR SERVICES OFFERED FOR SALE BY A SELLER OF TRAVEL OR AN INDEPENDENT**  
7 **AGENT UNLESS, AT THE TIME OF RECEIVING THE PAYMENT, THE SELLER OF TRAVEL**  
8 **OR INDEPENDENT AGENT HAS MET THE ANNUAL FILING REQUIREMENTS UNDER**  
9 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

10           **(C) (1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, THE DEPARTMENT**  
11 **SHALL PAY ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS TITLE TO THE COMPTROLLER.**

12           **(2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE**  
13 **SELLERS OF TRAVEL SERVICES REGISTRATION FUND ESTABLISHED IN § 2-106.17**  
14 **OF THIS ARTICLE.**

15 **17-2203.**

16           **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

17           **(1) PROVIDE REASONABLE NOTICE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**  
18 **SUBTITLE TO CONSUMERS AND SELLERS OF TRAVEL;**

19           **(2) ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

20           **(3) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING**  
21 **REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE**  
22 **REGISTRATION OF SELLERS OF TRAVEL AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT**  
23 **OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

24           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
25 **October 1, 2026.**