

HOUSE BILL 1291

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6lr2898

By: **Delegates Roberts, Alston, Coley, Harrison, Holmes, Lopez, Pasteur, Ruth,
Taylor, Turner, Williams, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Continuity of Care**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to adopt regulations to
4 establish a procedure to provide for the temporary continuation of services and
5 maintain the continuity of care for certain Maryland Medical Assistance Program
6 recipients facing a lapse in services due to an administrative or technical error;
7 prohibiting the Department from altering certain appeal and hearing rights to
8 accommodate the temporary continuation of services procedures; prohibiting the
9 Department from billing certain individuals for services received during the
10 temporary continuation of services; and generally relating to continuity of care for
11 seniors receiving in-home services.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Health – General

14 Section 15–160

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 **15–160.**

21 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING A**
22 **PROCEDURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF SERVICES TO**
23 **MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF CARE OF A PROGRAM RECIPIENT:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) WHO:**

2 **(I) IS AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD;**

3 **(II) HAS RECEIVED IN-HOME SERVICES UNDER A PROGRAM**
4 **ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 6**
5 **MONTHS; AND**

6 **(III) HAS EXPERIENCED OR IS ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE AN**
7 **INTERRUPTION OF SERVICES DUE TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR OR A TECHNICAL**
8 **ISSUE EXPERIENCED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND**

9 **(2) ABOUT WHOM THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ALERTED OF THE**
10 **ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR OR TECHNICAL ISSUE BY A CASE MANAGER OR CARE**
11 **PLANNER WHO HAS:**

12 **(I) A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT; AND**

13 **(II) FAMILIARITY WITH THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT'S HISTORY.**

14 **(B) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF SERVICES**
15 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A PROGRAM RECIPIENT SHALL TAKE**
16 **STEPS TO RESOLVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR OR TECHNICAL ISSUE INCLUDING,**
17 **AS APPROPRIATE:**

18 **(1) FILING AN APPEAL;**

19 **(2) REQUESTING A HEARING; OR**

20 **(3) REAPPLYING FOR COVERAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND**
21 **FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

22 **(C) (1) A TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF SERVICES UNDER THIS**
23 **SECTION SHALL BEGIN ON THE FIRST DAY THAT A PROGRAM RECIPIENT FACES A**
24 **LOSS OF SERVICES AND CONTINUE FOR UP TO 52 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, OR 1,248**
25 **SERVICE HOURS, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST.**

26 **(2) THE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER A TEMPORARY CONTINUATION**
27 **MAY BE ONLY THE SERVICES FOR WHICH THE PROGRAM RECIPIENT WAS**
28 **PREVIOUSLY APPROVED.**

29 **(D) THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS**
30 **SECTION MAY NOT:**

1 **(1) ALTER EXISTING APPEAL OR HEARING RIGHTS; OR**

2 **(2) AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO BILL THE PROGRAM**
3 **RECIPIENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED DURING THE TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF**
4 **SERVICES.**

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