

# SENATE BILL 611

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By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Study on Maryland Medical Assistance**  
3 **Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Division of Health Care Financing and Medicaid within  
5 the Maryland Department of Health to study the impact of requiring the Maryland  
6 Medical Assistance Program to provide reimbursement for room and board services  
7 provided by a hospice house; and generally relating to a study of reimbursement for  
8 hospice room and board services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
10 That:

11 (a) The Division of Health Care Financing and Medicaid within the Maryland  
12 Department of Health shall study the impact of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance  
13 Program to provide reimbursement for room and board services provided by a hospice  
14 house, as defined in COMAR 10.07.22.02.

15 (b) The study required under subsection (a) of this section shall:

16 (1) quantify overall Maryland Medical Assistance Program savings per  
17 death as a result of the use of hospice care; and

18 (2) examine how the provision of reimbursement for room and board  
19 services would:

20 (i) affect hospice readmission rates;

21 (ii) improve hospice length of stay;

22 (iii) result in a reduction in deaths in hospitals; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iv) result in a reduction in emergency department utilization.

(c) On or before September 30, 2026, the Maryland Department of Health shall report its findings to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

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