

SENATE BILL 772

J1, O1, P1

6lr2727
CF 6lr2728

By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity**
3 **Database**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish an
5 employment training and opportunity database for the purpose of assisting
6 individuals in the State in finding employment training and other opportunities that
7 may enable the individuals to become eligible and maintain eligibility for the
8 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
9 Program; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to assist individuals in
10 enrolling in programs listed in the database; requiring the Maryland Department of
11 Labor, the Secretary of Human Services, and the Department of Service and Civic
12 Innovation to establish a process for receiving recommendations for inclusion in the
13 database and to forward appropriate recommendations to the Maryland Department
14 of Health; and generally relating to an employment training and opportunity
15 database.

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Business Regulation
18 Section 2–111
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
22 Article – Health – General
23 Section 15–160
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
27 Article – Human Services
28 Section 5–101(a) and (g) and 5–304(b)(1) and (c)(1)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Human Services

Section 5–304(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 21–101(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 21–106(b)(7) and (8)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 21–106(b)(9)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Regulation

2–111.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

**(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY
RECOMMEND A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE, TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT
PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER
§ 15–160 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

**(2) IF APPROPRIATE, FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION MADE UNDER
ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR
INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE.**

Article – Health – General

1 15–160.

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “DATABASE” MEANS THE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING
3 AND OPPORTUNITY DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER SUBSECTION
4 (B) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN
6 EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITY DATABASE.

7 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE DATABASE IS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS IN
8 THE STATE WITH ASSISTANCE IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND OTHER
9 OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAY ENABLE THE INDIVIDUALS TO BECOME ELIGIBLE AND
10 MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR:

11 (I) THE PROGRAM; AND

12 (II) THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

13 (3) IN DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE DATABASE, THE
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES:

15 (I) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR;

16 (II) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES;

17 (III) THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION;

18 (IV) THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;

19 (V) LABOR UNIONS;

20 (VI) TRADE ASSOCIATIONS;

21 (VII) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS;

22 (VIII) LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS; AND

23 (IX) ANY OTHER ENTITY THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES
24 APPROPRIATE.

25 (C) THE DATABASE SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN THE STATE;

(2) INFORMATION REGARDING HOW TO APPLY FOR A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

(3) A MECHANISM THAT ALLOWS AN INDIVIDUAL TO DIRECTLY CONTACT THE VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL IS INTERESTED.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) MAKE THE DATABASE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON A DEDICATED PAGE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE;

(2) ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN ENROLLING IN VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAMS LISTED IN THE DATABASE; AND

(3) UPDATE THE DATABASE AT LEAST EVERY 30 DAYS.

Article – Human Services

5–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(g) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Human Services.

5–304.

(b) (1) The Secretary of Budget and Management, with the assistance of the Secretary, shall develop and implement a plan for hiring current and former recipients, children of current or former recipients, foster youth, and obligors by the principal departments within the Executive Branch of State government.

(c) (1) Working with appropriate local government officials, the Secretary and each local director shall develop and implement a local government hiring plan under which local governments may hire current and former recipients, children of current or former recipients, foster youth, and obligors.

(D) THE SECRETARY SHALL:

1 **(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY**
2 **RECOMMEND A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT**
3 **PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER**
4 **§ 15–160 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

5 **(2) IF APPROPRIATE, FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION MADE UNDER**
6 **ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR**
7 **INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE.**

8 **Article – State Government**

9 21–101.

10 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 (b) “Department” means the Department of Service and Civic Innovation.

12 21–106.

13 (b) The Department shall:

14 (7) conduct studies and make recommendations to improve volunteer
15 recruitment and training, volunteer retention, and accountability of volunteer programs;
16 **[and]**

17 (8) provide staff support for the Governor’s Commission on Service and
18 Volunteerism; **AND**

19 **(9) (I) ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY**
20 **RECOMMEND A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT**
21 **PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER**
22 **§ 15–160 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

23 **(II) IF APPROPRIATE, FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION MADE**
24 **UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR**
25 **INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September
28 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
29 abrogated and of no further force and effect.