

SENATE BILL 772

J1, O1, P1

6lr2727
CF HB 1246

By: **Senator Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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

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.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
4 Article – Human Services
5 Section 5–101(a) and (g) and 5–304(b)(1) and (c)(1)
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

8 BY adding to
9 Article – Human Services
10 Section 5–304(d)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – State Government
15 Section 21–101(a) and (b)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – State Government
20 Section 21–106(b)(7) and (8)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY adding to
24 Article – State Government
25 Section 21–106(b)(9)
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

30 **Article – Business Regulation**

31 **2–111.**

32 **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

33 **(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY**
34 **RECOMMEND A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE, TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT**
35 **PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER**
36 **§ 15–160 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

1 **(IX) ANY OTHER ENTITY THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES**
2 **APPROPRIATE.**

3 **(C) THE DATABASE SHALL INCLUDE:**

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

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

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

12 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

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

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

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

19 **Article – Human Services**

20 5–101.

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

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

23 5–304.

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

28 (c) (1) Working with appropriate local government officials, the Secretary and
29 each local director shall develop and implement a local government hiring plan under which

1 local governments may hire current and former recipients, children of current or former
2 recipients, foster youth, and obligors.

3 **(D) THE SECRETARY SHALL:**

4 **(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY**
5 **RECOMMEND A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT**
6 **PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER**
7 **§ 15–160 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

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

11 **Article – State Government**

12 21–101.

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

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

15 21–106.

16 (b) The Department shall:

17 (7) conduct studies and make recommendations to improve volunteer
18 recruitment and training, volunteer retention, and accountability of volunteer programs;
19 [and]

20 (8) provide staff support for the Governor’s Commission on Service and
21 Volunteerism; AND

22 **(9) (I) ESTABLISH A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY**
23 **RECOMMEND A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT**
24 **PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION IN THE DATABASE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER**
25 **§ 15–160 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

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

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September

1 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.