

SENATE BILL 798

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6lr2572
CF 6lr2010

By: Senator Lam

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Tobacco Cessation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide, subject
4 to the limitations of the State budget and as permitted by federal law, individual and
5 group counseling for the purpose of tobacco cessation; prohibiting the Program and
6 managed care organizations from requiring prior authorization for any product or
7 service for use in tobacco cessation; and generally relating to the Maryland Medical
8 Assistance Program and tobacco cessation.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

10 Article – Health – General

11 Section 15–103(a)(1)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Health – General

16 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxvii) and (xxviii)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Health – General

21 Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxix) and 15–160

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Health – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 15–103.

2 (a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance
3 Program.

4 (2) The Program:

5 (xxvii) Beginning on January 1, 2026, if providing coverage for
6 the delivery of anesthesia, shall provide coverage for the delivery of anesthesia in
7 accordance with § 15–862 of the Insurance Article; [and]

8 (xxviii) Beginning on January 1, 2026, shall provide calcium score
9 testing in accordance with § 15–863 of the Insurance Article; AND

10 (XXIX) **SHALL PROVIDE, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF**
11 **THE STATE BUDGET, AND AS PERMITTED BY FEDERAL LAW, INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP**
12 **COUNSELING FOR THE PURPOSE OF TOBACCO CESSATION.**

13 **15–160.**

14 **THE PROGRAM AND A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION MAY NOT REQUIRE A**
15 **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR ANY PRODUCT OR SERVICE FOR USE IN ELIMINATING**
16 **AN INDIVIDUAL'S DEPENDENCE ON TOBACCO.**

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