

# SENATE BILL 798

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By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

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## 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**

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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.