

SENATE BILL 892

J2, J1, J5

6lr2668
CF HB 1121

By: **Senators Gile, Beidle, Hester, King, Love, and Hettleman**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations, Public Health – ~~Perimenopausal, Menopausal, and~~**
3 **~~Postmenopausal Conditions~~, and Insurance – Menopause – Provider Training**
4 **Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Advisory Council on Health and
6 Wellness; requiring ~~certain~~ health occupations boards that require ~~a licensee~~
7 licensees or certificate ~~holder~~ holders to complete certain continuing education
8 ~~requirements as a condition of renewal to grant at least a certain amount of~~
9 ~~continuing education credits for completing continuing education on~~
10 ~~perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal evaluation and treatment to~~
11 grant a certain number of hours for every hour of continuing education for
12 menopause and menopause-associated symptoms; authorizing certain health
13 occupations boards to establish a maximum number of certain continuing education
14 credits granted; requiring the Department to identify a certain training program in
15 consultation with certain professional associations; requiring certain insurers,
16 nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide
17 coverage for the evaluation and management of menopause and
18 menopause-associated conditions; requiring ~~the Maryland Health Care~~
19 ~~Commission,~~ the Maryland Commission for ~~Women,~~ Women and the Maryland
20 Department of Health to take certain actions related to perimenopausal,
21 menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions; and generally relating to
22 ~~perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions~~ provider training,
23 health insurance coverage, policy initiatives, and access to care related to
24 menopause.

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 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
2 Article – Health – General
3 Section 13–201
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Health – General
8 Section 13–203
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 1–231
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Insurance
18 Section 15–864
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Health – General**

24 13–201.

25 In this subtitle, “Advisory Council” means the State Advisory Council on Health and
26 Wellness.

27 13–203.

28 (a) The Advisory Council consists of [34] voting members appointed by the
29 Secretary.

30 (b) The following members shall serve without term limits:

31 (1) The Secretary [of Health], or the Secretary’s designee;

32 (2) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent’s
33 designee;

34 (3) The Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary’s designee;

1 (4) The Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (5) A representative of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health
3 Disparities; [and]

4 (6) A representative of the Maryland Association of County Health
5 Officers; AND

6 **(7) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION**
7 **FOR WOMEN, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.**

8 (c) The following members are subject to term limits:

9 (1) One representative of the American Heart Association Mid-Atlantic,
10 Inc., nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;

11 (2) One representative of the Arthritis Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Region,
12 Maryland, nominated by the Executive Director of the Foundation;

13 (3) One representative of the American Diabetes Association, Maryland
14 Chapter, nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;

15 (4) One representative of Johns Hopkins Medicine, nominated by the Chief
16 Executive Officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine;

17 (5) One representative of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society,
18 nominated by the Executive Director of MedChi;

19 (6) One representative of the University of Maryland Medical Center and
20 University of Maryland School of Medicine, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the
21 Medical Center and the Dean of the School of Medicine;

22 (7) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy
23 of Pediatrics, nominated by the Executive Director of the Chapter;

24 (8) One representative of the Maryland Nurses Association, nominated by
25 the Executive Director of the Association;

26 (9) One representative of the Maryland Academy of Nutrition and
27 Dietetics, nominated by the President of the Academy;

28 (10) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of
29 Emergency Physicians, nominated by the President of the Chapter; [and]

1 (11) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERTISE IN PERIMENOPAUSAL,**
 2 **MENOPAUSAL, AND POSTMENOPAUSAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT; AND**

3 **(12) [Eighteen] SEVENTEEN** members of the public, who may include:

4 (i) Individuals with a chronic disease or family members of an
 5 individual with a chronic disease;

6 (ii) Licensed health care providers;

7 (iii) Individuals with a physical fitness background;

8 (iv) Employers or representatives of the business sector;

9 (v) Representatives of health insurers;

10 (vi) Representatives of community-based organizations; and

11 (vii) Individuals with expressed interest in health and wellness.

12 (d) (1) This subsection applies to members who are subject to term limits.

13 (2) The term of a member is 4 years.

14 (3) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms provided
 15 for members of the Advisory Council on October 1, 2017.

16 (4) A member may serve two consecutive full terms.

17 (5) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
 18 appointed and qualifies.

19 (6) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
 20 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

21 (7) A member who serves two consecutive full 4-year terms may not be
 22 reappointed for 4 years after the completion of those terms.

23 (e) If a vacancy occurs, the Secretary promptly shall appoint a successor.

24 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read~~
 25 ~~as follows:~~

26 **Article – Health Occupations**

27 **1-231.**

1 ~~(A) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE ISSUED~~
2 ~~BY A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD UNDER TITLE 7, 9, 20, OR 21 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

3 ~~(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH HEALTH~~
4 ~~OCCUPATIONS BOARD THAT REQUIRES A LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER TO~~
5 ~~COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION AS A CONDITION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE~~
6 ~~LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE SHALL GRANT AT LEAST 2 HOURS OF CONTINUING~~
7 ~~EDUCATION CREDITS FOR EVERY HOUR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ON~~
8 ~~PERIMENOPAUSAL, MENOPAUSAL, AND POSTMENOPAUSAL EVALUATION AND~~
9 ~~TREATMENT THAT THE LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER COMPLETES.~~

10 ~~(2) A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD MAY ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM~~
11 ~~NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS THAT MAY BE GRANTED UNDER~~
12 ~~PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

13 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER
14 WHO EVALUATES AND MANAGES MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED
15 SYMPTOMS WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE.

16 (B) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD THAT REQUIRES A LICENSEE OR
17 CERTIFICATE HOLDER TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION AS A CONDITION OF
18 THE RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE SHALL GRANT AT LEAST 2 HOURS
19 OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR EVERY 1 HOUR OF CONTINUING
20 EDUCATION ON MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS
21 COMPLETED BY THE LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

22 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AT LEAST ONE TRAINING
23 PROGRAM FOR LICENSEES AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS REGARDING THE
24 EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED
25 SYMPTOMS THAT MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
26 SECTION.

27 (2) IN IDENTIFYING A TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
28 THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH PROFESSIONAL
29 ASSOCIATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED
30 SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING THE MENOPAUSE SOCIETY.

31 (D) A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY ADOPT
32 REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS
33 ESTABLISHING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS THAT
34 MAY BE GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

1 SECTION ~~2~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
 2 ~~Health Care Commission shall~~ read as follows:

3 ~~(1) in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland~~
 4 ~~Insurance Administration, and the Maryland Commission for Women, evaluate coverage~~
 5 ~~and barriers to coverage of the evaluation and treatment of perimenopausal, menopausal,~~
 6 ~~and postmenopausal conditions, including coverage of hormone replacement therapy and~~
 7 ~~preauthorization and step therapy requirements; and~~

8 ~~(2) on or before December 1, 2026, shall report its findings and~~
 9 ~~recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health Committee, in~~
 10 ~~accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.~~

11 Article - Insurance

12 15-864.

13 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

14 (1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT
 15 PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS
 16 ON AN EXPENSE-INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR
 17 CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

18 (2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE
 19 HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER
 20 CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

21 (B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR
 22 THE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENOPAUSE AND
 23 MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS AS DETERMINED BY THE TREATING HEALTH
 24 CARE PROVIDER.

25 SECTION ~~4~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Commission
 26 for Women shall:

27 (1) evaluate opportunities for State policy initiatives that improve the
 28 health and economic security of individuals in the State with perimenopausal, menopausal,
 29 and postmenopausal conditions; and

30 (2) on or before October 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations
 31 to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

32 SECTION ~~5~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department
 33 of Health shall:

1 (1) in consultation with the State Community Health Worker Advisory
 2 Committee, evaluate and develop an action plan to increase access to perimenopausal,
 3 menopausal, and postmenopausal health care services through the outreach of community
 4 health workers to consumers; and

5 (2) on or before October 1, 2027, submit its evaluation and recommended
 6 action plan to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government
 7 Article.

8 SECTION ~~6~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department
 9 of Health shall:

10 (1) in consultation with health care provider professional associations and
 11 institutions of higher education, including community colleges, evaluate methods for
 12 increasing opportunities for clinical education, including postgraduate education, on
 13 perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal evaluation and treatment; and

14 (2) on or before October 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations
 15 to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

16 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
 17 apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the
 18 State on or after January 1, 2027.

19 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
 20 effect January 1, 2027.

21 SECTION ~~7~~ 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section ~~2~~ 1 of this Act shall
 22 take effect October 1, 2026.

23 SECTION ~~8~~ 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
 24 ~~Section 7~~ Sections 7 and 8 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.