Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 246 (Senator Beidle)
Finance Health

Health Services Cost Review Commission - Term of Office of Members

This bill specifies that, at the end of a term, a member of the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) may continue to serve for up to six months (rather than until a successor is appointed and qualifies). A member who is appointed after a term has begun may serve *only* for the rest of the term (rather than for the rest of the term and until a qualified successor is appointed).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The change is procedural in nature and does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: HSCRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health established to contain hospital costs, maintain fairness in hospital payment, provide access to hospital care, and disclose information on the operation of hospitals in the State. HSCRC was responsible for implementing the Total Cost of Care Model, the successor to the Maryland All-Payer Model Contract and will implement the Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) Model from 2026 to 2034 to continue statewide efforts to improve health care quality and control costs.

HSCRC consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Chapter 366 of 2023 requires that members be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. When appointing a member, the Governor must consider and make appointments that would promote the racial, gender, and geographic diversity of the commission. Four members must be individuals who do not have any connection with the management of policy of any health care facility.

A member's term is four years, and terms are staggered. At the end of a term, members continue to serve until a qualified successor is appointed. A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a qualified successor is appointed. A member who serves two consecutive full four-year terms may not be reappointed for four years after completion of those terms.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 22, 2026
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