

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 696 (2025) AND HB 962 (2025)

- Page 3, Line 5 Insert (“A”) between “WHO” and “REMAINS
- Page 3, Line 7 At end of sentence, change period to a comma and add “(B) OR IS RELEASED BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE.”
- Page 3, Line 9 Delete “(A)” at the beginning of the paragraph.
- Page 3, Line 12 At end of sentence, before period, add “, AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE”
- Page 3, Lines 13-16 Delete entire paragraph: ~~“(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, TO ENSURE THAT 14 A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT IS TREATED IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE 15 SETTING, A HOSPITAL MAY CONCURRENTLY EXPLORE IN STATE AND 16 OUT OF STATE PLACEMENT OPTIONS.”~~
- Page 3, Lines 17-28 Delete entire proposed new Section 19-390 of the Health-General Article:

~~19-390.

(A) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE 19 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT TO FILL ALL POSITIONS 20 AUTHORIZED FOR A REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE STATE. (2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT TO FILL ALL POSITIONS AUTHORIZED FOR A REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE STATE. (B) THE GOVERNOR MAY USE FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR THE ADOLESCENT HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.~~
- Page 4, Line 23 Replace “BEST INTEREST OF A PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY PATIENT” with “BEST INTEREST OF EACH PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY PATIENT”
- Page 4, Line 26 At end of sentence, before the period, add: “, TO FIND AND SECURE IMMEDIATE APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR EACH PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY PATIENT, INCLUDING ALL EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT THE PATIENT NEEDS”
- Page 5, Line 1 Insert “ALL” between “RELATED TO” and “PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY PATIENTS”

- Page 5, Line 5 Insert “AND CHILD WELFARE” between “HEALTH” and “INFORMATION”
- Page 5, Line 23 Insert between “HEALTH DIAGNOSIS;” and “AND” new paragraphs (VI), (VII), and (VIII):
- “(VI) THE CHILD’S AGE, RACE, ETHNICITY, SEX, GENDER, DISABILITY STATUS, COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, AND LOCATION OF LOCAL DSS SERVING THE CHILD;
- (VII) PROTECTIVE SERVICES STATUS AND HISTORY, IF ANY;
- (VIII) DURATION OF HOSPITALIZATION AND HOSPITAL OVERSTAY STATUS;”
- Page 5, Line 24 Change “(VI)” to “(IX)”
- Page 5, Line 25 Insert new Paragraph (E):
- “(E) WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, THE COORDINATOR SHALL COMPLETE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NUMBER, TYPES, AND COST OF THE ADDITIONAL BEDS AND THE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NEEDED TO PLACE ALL CHILDREN IN PEDIATRIC OVERSTAYS IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE COORDINATOR SHALL MAKE THIS ASSESSMENT BY WORKING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF (i) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF (ii) PRIVATE PLACEMENT PROVIDERS OF FOSTER CARE SERVICES AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN MARYLAND; DISABILTY RIGHTS MARYLAND; THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER; AND LAWYERS WHO REPRESENT FOSTER CHILDREN IN PEDIATRIC OVERSTAYS.”
- Page 5, Line 25 Change “(E)” to “(F)”:
- Page 6, Line 1 Add new Section (G):
- “(G) TO HELP PREVENT PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAYS FROM OCCURRING, WHENEVER A CHILD OR YOUTH UNDER AGE 22 IS HOSPITALIZED AND LACKS A PLACEMENT FOR WHEN THE CHILD OR YOUTH IS READY FOR DISCHARGE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SHALL COMMENCE DISCHARGE PLANNING WITH THE HOSPITAL TO FIND

PLACEMENTS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE SETTINGS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE CHILD IS READY FOR DISCHARGE. SUCH DISCHARGE PLANNING SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, MEET THE CRITERIA OF CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS SECTIONS 14.31.03.03 through 14.31.03.05.”