



*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary*

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 1478 – Public Health – Home Health Care Providers – Directory – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 1478 – Public Health – Home Health Care Providers – Directory.

HB 1478 requires the Department to establish and maintain an online directory of each home health care provider in Maryland. The directory must include certain information not currently collected, including abuse and neglect reports from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), language proficiency, and work history. Additionally, residential service agencies (RSAs) must submit contact details for each of their home health care employees to the Department annually. HB 1478 further requires the Department to support the recruitment and retention of qualified home health care providers, by engaging in active recruitment through advertising and participating in job fairs, as well as connecting the providers to opportunities for personal development, and facilitating their access to health insurance and other benefits.

The Department launched the Maryland Medicaid "Provider Finder", a fee-for-service public provider directory, which includes home health agencies in 2024.<sup>1</sup> The existing directory does not satisfy HB 1478's requirements and a separate directory for home health providers (not just home health agencies) would need to be created. The Department estimates that HB 1478 will have a fiscal impact of \$14.4 million TF (\$7.2 million GF, \$7.2 million FF) for five years from FY26 through FY30. The majority of the fiscal impact will be realized to support the system design, development, and implementation of the new directory at a cost of \$10.4 million TF (\$5.2 million GF, \$5.2 million FF) in FY26. Funding will also support systems' coordination with the Office of Health Care Quality and staffing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/Pages/provider-finder.aspx>. Managed care organization will be added in summer 2025.

The legislation permits, but does not require, the Department to charge providers a fee to offset costs associated with the directory. If the Department establishes a fee to support the ongoing operation of the directory, then staffing costs in FY27 and beyond would be offset by an indeterminate amount – dependent on the fee established and the number of providers in the directory. Finally, the Department notes that the timeline of the bill may not be feasible and additional time may be required by the Department for the implementation of the provisions under HB 1478.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this letter of information that highlights our existing infrastructure as well as the necessary fiscal implications of enforcing the provisions in this bill. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan B. Moran, DrPH, MHSA  
Acting Secretary