

SENATE BILL 611

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By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Study on Maryland Medical Assistance**
3 **Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Division of Health Care Financing and Medicaid within~~
5 ~~the Maryland Department of Health~~ Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland
6 Medical Assistance Program jointly to study the impact of requiring the Maryland
7 Medical Assistance Program to provide reimbursement for room and board services
8 provided by a hospice house; and generally relating to a study of reimbursement for
hospice room and board services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) The ~~Division of Health Care Financing and Medicaid within the Maryland~~
12 ~~Department of Health~~ Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Medical Assistance
13 Program jointly shall study the impact of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance
14 Program to provide reimbursement for room and board services provided by a hospice
house, as defined in COMAR 10.07.22.02.

15 (b) The study required under subsection (a) of this section shall:

16 (1) ~~quantify~~ analyze overall Maryland Medical Assistance Program savings per
17 enrollee ~~death as a result of the use of hospice care; and~~ associated with hospice care utilization
during the last 6 months of life compared with costs associated with other services provided
to Program enrollees during the last 6 months of life, including the impact on:

(i) avoided inpatient hospital stays;

(ii) emergency department utilization; and

(iii) intensive treatments near the end of life;

18 (2) analyze the projected fiscal impact of the provision of reimbursement for
hospice house room and board services, including any potential offsets or net savings;

19 (3) examine how the provision of reimbursement for room and board
services would:

20 (i) affect ~~hospice~~ hospital readmission rates;

21 (ii) improve hospice length of stay;

22 (iii) improve early access to hospice services;

(iv) result in a reduction in deaths in hospitals; and

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1 ~~(v)~~ (v) result in a reduction in emergency department utilization; and

(4) include a comparison of other states that provide reimbursement for hospice house room and board service, including a comparison of:

(i) payment models;

(ii) utilization outcomes; and

(iii) cost impacts.

2 (c) On or before September 30, 2026, the Maryland Department of Health shall
3 report its findings to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health Committee, in
4 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2026.