

# HOUSE BILL 1151

J1, J3

(6lr2923)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Health/Finance —

Introduced by Delegates Hutchinson, Adams, ~~and Hartman~~ Hartman, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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  
6 Maryland Medical Assistance Program jointly to study the impact of requiring the  
7 Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide reimbursement for room and board  
8 services provided by a hospice house; and generally relating to a study of  
9 reimbursement for hospice room and board services under the Maryland Medical  
10 Assistance Program.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That:

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#### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



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

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

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

12 (i) avoided inpatient hospital stays;

13 (ii) emergency department utilization; and

14 (iii) intensive treatments near the end of life;

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

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

19 (i) affect hospice hospital readmission rates;

20 (ii) improve hospice length of stay;

21 (iii) improve early access to hospice services;

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

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

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

26 (i) payment models;

27 (ii) utilization outcomes; and

28 (iii) cost impacts.

1 (c) On or before ~~September 30~~ December 1, 2026, the Maryland Department of  
2 Health shall report its findings to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health  
3 Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.