

HOUSE BILL 1365

J5, J4, J2

6lr0671

By: ~~Delegate Pena-Melnyk~~ Delegates Pena-Melnyk, Bagnall, D. Jones, Spiegel, Rose, Alston, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations ~~and~~, Public Health, and Insurance – Menopause – Provider**
3 **Training ~~and~~ Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the State Advisory Council on Health and
5 Wellness; requiring health occupations boards that require licensees or certificate
6 holders to complete certain continuing education to grant a certain number of hours
7 for every hour of continuing education for menopause and menopause-associated
8 symptoms; authorizing certain health occupations boards to establish a maximum
9 number of certain continuing education credits granted; requiring the Department
10 to identify a certain training program in consultation with certain professional
11 associations; requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health
12 maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the evaluation and management
13 of menopause and menopause-associated conditions; requiring the Maryland
14 Commission for Women and the Maryland Department of Health to take certain
15 actions related to perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal conditions; and
16 generally relating to provider training ~~and~~, health insurance coverage, policy
17 initiatives, and access to care related to menopause.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

19 Article – Health – General

20 Section 13–201

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

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.



1 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

3 Article – Health – General

4 Section 13–203

5 Annotated Code of Maryland

6 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Health Occupations

9 Section 1–231

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Insurance

14 Section 15–864

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 13–201.

21 In this subtitle, “Advisory Council” means the State Advisory Council on Health and
22 Wellness.

23 13–203.

24 (a) The Advisory Council consists of [34] voting members appointed by the
25 Secretary.

26 (b) The following members shall serve without term limits:

27 (1) The Secretary [of Health], or the Secretary’s designee;

28 (2) The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent’s
29 designee;

30 (3) The Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary’s designee;

31 (4) The Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;

1 (5) A representative of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health
2 Disparities; [and]

3 (6) A representative of the Maryland Association of County Health
4 Officers; AND

5 **(7) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION**
6 **FOR WOMEN, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.**

7 (c) The following members are subject to term limits:

8 (1) One representative of the American Heart Association Mid-Atlantic,
9 Inc., nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;

10 (2) One representative of the Arthritis Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Region,
11 Maryland, nominated by the Executive Director of the Foundation;

12 (3) One representative of the American Diabetes Association, Maryland
13 Chapter, nominated by the Executive Director of the Association;

14 (4) One representative of Johns Hopkins Medicine, nominated by the Chief
15 Executive Officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine;

16 (5) One representative of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society,
17 nominated by the Executive Director of MedChi;

18 (6) One representative of the University of Maryland Medical Center and
19 University of Maryland School of Medicine, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the
20 Medical Center and the Dean of the School of Medicine;

21 (7) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy
22 of Pediatrics, nominated by the Executive Director of the Chapter;

23 (8) One representative of the Maryland Nurses Association, nominated by
24 the Executive Director of the Association;

25 (9) One representative of the Maryland Academy of Nutrition and
26 Dietetics, nominated by the President of the Academy;

27 (10) One representative of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of
28 Emergency Physicians, nominated by the President of the Chapter; [and]

29 **(11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERTISE IN PERIMENOPAUSAL,**
30 **MENOPAUSAL, AND POSTMENOPAUSAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT; AND**

31 **(12) [Eighteen] SEVENTEEN** members of the public, who may include:

1 THE RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE SHALL GRANT AT LEAST 2 HOURS
2 OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR EVERY 1 HOUR OF CONTINUING
3 EDUCATION ON MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS
4 COMPLETED BY THE LICENSEE OR CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

5 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AT LEAST ONE TRAINING
6 PROGRAM FOR LICENSEES AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS REGARDING THE
7 EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED
8 SYMPTOMS THAT MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
9 SECTION.

10 (2) IN IDENTIFYING A TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
11 THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH PROFESSIONAL
12 ASSOCIATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN MENOPAUSE AND MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED
13 SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING THE MENOPAUSE SOCIETY.

14 (D) A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY ADOPT
15 REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS
16 ESTABLISHING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS THAT
17 MAY BE GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
19 as follows:

20 **Article – Insurance**

21 **15-864.**

22 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

23 (1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT
24 PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS
25 ON AN EXPENSE-INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR
26 CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

27 (2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE
28 HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER
29 CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

30 (B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR
31 THE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENOPAUSE AND
32 MENOPAUSE-ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS AS DETERMINED BY THE TREATING HEALTH
33 CARE PROVIDER.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Commission for
2 Women shall:

3 (1) evaluate opportunities for State policy initiatives that improve the
4 health and economic security of individuals in the State with perimenopausal, menopausal,
5 and postmenopausal conditions; and

6 (2) on or before October 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations
7 to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

8 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of
9 Health shall:

10 (1) in consultation with the State Community Health Worker Advisory
11 Committee, evaluate and develop an action plan to increase access to perimenopausal,
12 menopausal, and postmenopausal health care services through the outreach of community
13 health workers to consumers; and

14 (2) on or before October 1, 2027, submit its evaluation and recommended
15 action plan to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government
16 Article.

17 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Department of
18 Health shall:

19 (1) in consultation with health care provider professional associations and
20 institutions of higher education, including community colleges, evaluate methods for
21 increasing opportunities for clinical education, including postgraduate education, on
22 perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal evaluation and treatment; and

23 (2) on or before October 1, 2027, report its findings and recommendations
24 to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

25 ~~SECTION 3.~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
26 apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the
27 State on or after January 1, 2027.

28 ~~SECTION 4.~~ 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
29 take effect January 1, 2027.

30 ~~SECTION 5.~~ 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, ~~except as provided in~~
31 Section 4 1 of this Act, ~~this Act~~ shall take effect October 1, 2026.

32 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
33 Sections 7 and 8 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.