# HOUSE BILL 1372

J2, J1 EMERGENCY BILL (6lr2541)

***ENROLLED BILL***

*— Health/Finance —*

Introduced by **Delegate Solomon (By Request – Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee) and Delegates Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, 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 **Public Health – Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland**
3 **~~Department of~~ Health Centralization Commission**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in collaboration with
5 the Office of Health Care Quality within the Maryland Department of Health, to
6 develop a process to receive and publish certain inspection information on a certain
7 website; establishing the Maryland ~~Department of~~ Health Centralization
8 Commission to provide certain advice and recommendations relating to the
9 relationship between the Maryland Department of Health and the health
10 occupations boards; requiring ~~the Secretary of Information Technology to ensure~~
11 ~~that minimum cybersecurity requirements are met by all health occupations boards~~
12 each health occupations board to annually report certain information to the

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.*

Department of Information Technology; and generally relating to the sharing of inspection information and the oversight of health occupations boards in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 19–109(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health Occupations
Section 1–102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health Occupations
Section 1–103 and 1–104 to be under the amended subtitle "Subtitle 1. Definitions and Policy"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General**

19–109.

(b) In addition to the duties set forth elsewhere in this subtitle, the Commission shall:

(1) Adopt rules and regulations that relate to its meetings, minutes, and transactions;

(2) Keep minutes of each meeting;

(3) Prepare annually a budget proposal that includes the estimated income of the Commission and proposed expenses for its administration and operation;

(4) Beginning December 1, 2000, and each December 1 thereafter, submit to the Governor, the Secretary, and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly an annual report on the operations and activities of the Commission during the preceding fiscal year, including:

(i) A copy of each summary, compilation, and supplementary report required by this subtitle; and

(ii) Any other fact, suggestion, or policy recommendation that the Commission considers necessary; **[**and**]**

(5) Except for confidential or privileged medical or patient information, make:

(i) Each report filed and each summary, compilation, and report required under this subtitle available for public inspection at the office of the Commission during regular business hours; and

(ii) Each summary, compilation, and report available to any other State agency on request**; AND**

**(6) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY, DEVELOP A PROCESS TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND PUBLISH IT ON THE COMMISSION'S MARYLAND QUALITY REPORTING WEBSITE FOR EACH APPLICABLE FACILITY:**

**(I) THE DATE OF THE OFFICE'S MOST RECENT INSPECTION; *AND***

**(II) ANY ASSOCIATED RATINGS OR OTHER QUALITY METRICS CALCULATED ~~BY THE OFFICE BASED ON THE MOST RECENT INSPECTION; AND~~**

~~**(III) THE DATE OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED INSPECTION; AND**~~

~~**(IV) IF APPLICABLE, A STATEMENT THAT THE FACILITY HAS NOT BEEN INSPECTED DURING THE TIME FRAME REQUIRED BY STATUTE OR REGULATION**~~.

**Article – Health Occupations**

Subtitle 1. Definitions **AND POLICY**.

1–102.

(a) It is the policy of the State that health occupations should be regulated and controlled as provided in this article to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

(b) The health occupations boards established by this article, the majority of whose members are licensed or certified under this article, are created to function as independent boards, with the intent that a peer group is best qualified to regulate, control, and otherwise discipline in a fair and unbiased manner the licensees or certificate holders who practice in the State.

**1–103.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND ~~DEPARTMENT OF~~ HEALTH CENTRALIZATION COMMISSION.**

**(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND ~~DEPARTMENT OF~~ HEALTH CENTRALIZATION COMMISSION.**

**(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROVIDE ONGOING ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HOW BEST TO ~~IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP~~ INCREASE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**(D) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

**(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

**(3) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

**(4) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES;**

**(5) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

**(6) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

**(7) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

**(8) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

**(9) ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE~~ THREE MEMBERS WHO ARE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' DESIGNEES, OF HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS NOT**

OTHERWISE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION, DESIGNATED JOINTLY BY THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS NOT OTHERWISE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION; AND

(10) ANY ADDITIONAL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COCHAIRS THAT THE ~~SECRETARY DETERMINES~~ COCHAIRS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS, DETERMINE TO BE NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THE COMMISSION.

(E) ~~THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE, SHALL CHAIR~~ THE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND AND THE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION SHALL COCHAIR THE COMMISSION.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

(G) (1) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD TO ~~SERVE AS A LIAISON TO~~ BE AVAILABLE TO WORK WITH THE COMMISSION.

(2) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD SHALL PROVIDE, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BUT NOT LATER THAN 10 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A REQUEST, ANY INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSION.

(H) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION; BUT

(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(I) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ~~REGARDING HOW BEST TO GRANT AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT~~ TO ENSURE THAT:

(I) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD REMEDIES AUDIT FINDINGS AND VIOLATIONS OF LAW, REGULATION, OR POLICY; AND

(II) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD ESTABLISHES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR, AS APPLICABLE:

**1. THE TIMELY PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS;**

**2. RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS;**

**3. CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS;**

**4. CONDUCTING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS, INCLUDING THE RECEIPT OF REVISED CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION FROM THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY AFTER THE DATE OF AN INITIAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK;**

**5. THE COLLECTION OF FEES AND THE ACCOUNTING OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THOSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES;**

**6. TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTIONS FOR LICENSE APPLICATION FRAUD, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF FINES; AND**

**7. ANY OTHER AREAS IN WHICH ACTION IS NEEDED, AS DETERMINED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION; AND**

**(2) PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ~~HOW BEST TO~~:**

**~~(I) ESTABLISH A SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE LICENSURE SYSTEM TO BE USED BY ALL HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS;~~**

**~~(II) AUTHORIZE THE USE OF HEALTH OCCUPATION BOARD REGULATORY FEES TO SUPPORT THE SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE LICENSURE SYSTEM;~~**

**(I) ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE LICENSURE SYSTEM THAT MAY BE USED BY A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD;**

**(II) AUTHORIZING A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD THAT USES THE COMPREHENSIVE LICENSURE SYSTEM TO USE LICENSE FEES TO SUPPORT THE SYSTEM;**

**(III) ~~CONSOLIDATE~~ CONSOLIDATING ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS TO ESTABLISH AND ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND CONTROL IN ALL AREAS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF EXISTING DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS FOR E–MAIL, FINANCE, AND HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES ACROSS ALL HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS; AND**

**(IV) ~~INCREASE~~ INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND USAGE OF THE MARYLAND QUALITY REPORTING WEBSITE OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH SELECTING APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE SETTINGS.**

**(J) ON OR BEFORE ~~OCTOBER~~ DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING ANY DRAFT LEGISLATION, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE, AND THE JOINT AUDIT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE.**

**1–104.**

~~THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SHALL ENSURE THAT MINIMUM CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS ARE MET BY ALL HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.~~

**ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EACH YEAR, EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SHALL CERTIFY TO THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THAT THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS USED BY THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD MEET THE STATE MINIMUM CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Health Centralization Commission established under § 1–103 of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall hold its first meeting on or before July 1, 2026.

SECTION ~~2~~. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved:

_____

Governor.

_____

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

_____

President of the Senate.