

HOUSE BILL 1372

J2, J1

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr2541
CF 6lr3598

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

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

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

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

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

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 Article – Health Occupations
2 Section 1–102
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY adding to
6 Article – Health Occupations
7 Section 1–103 and 1–104 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 1. Definitions
8 and Policy”
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Health – General**

14 19–109.

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

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

19 (2) Keep minutes of each meeting;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 Article – Health Occupations

15 Subtitle 1. Definitions AND POLICY.

16 1–102.

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

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

24 1–103.

25 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND
26 ~~DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CENTRALIZATION COMMISSION.~~

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

29 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROVIDE ONGOING ADVICE
30 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HOW BEST TO ~~IMPROVE~~

1 ~~THE RELATIONSHIP~~ INCREASE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND
 2 THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY,
 3 TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (9) ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF~~
 20 ~~ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S~~
 21 ~~DESIGNEE~~ THREE MEMBERS WHO ARE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, OR THE
 22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' DESIGNEES, OF HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS NOT
 23 OTHERWISE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION, DESIGNATED JOINTLY BY THE
 24 HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARDS NOT OTHERWISE REPRESENTED ON THE
 25 COMMISSION; AND

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

30 (E) ~~THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE, SHALL CHAIR THE~~
 31 MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND AND THE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF

1 DELEGATES APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION SHALL COCHAIR
2 THE COMMISSION.

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

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

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

11 (H) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

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

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

16 (I) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

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

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

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

23 1. THE TIMELY PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS;

24 2. RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS;

25 3. CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (J) ON OR BEFORE ~~OCTOBER~~ DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN
29 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS,
30 INCLUDING ANY DRAFT LEGISLATION, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE
31 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE FINANCE

1 COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE, AND THE JOINT AUDIT AND
2 EVALUATION COMMITTEE.

3 1-104.

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.