

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 322
Health

(Delegate Kerr)

Maryland Health Care Commission - Membership

This bill alters the membership of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) by (1) reducing, from nine to eight, the number of members who do not have any connection with the management or policy of a health care provider or payor and (2) requiring one member to be a representative of a hospital. When appointing members of the commission, the Governor must assure that at least four (rather than five) members are residents of different counties with a population of 300,000 or more.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Altering the membership of the commission does not directly affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MHCC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health with a mission to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policymakers, purchasers, providers, and the public.

The commission consists of 15 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of the 15 members:

- nine must be individuals who do not have any connection with the management or policy of a health care provider or payor; and
- of the remaining six members: (1) two must be physicians; (2) two must be payors; (3) one must be a nursing home administrator; and (4) one must be a nonphysician health care practitioner.

When appointing members to the commission, the Governor must assure that at least five members are residents of different counties with a population of 300,000 or more and at least three members are residents of different counties with a population less than 300,000, as specified. To the extent practicable, the Governor must assure geographic balance and promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the commission's membership.

The term of a member is four years; Members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The Governor may remove a member for neglect of duty, incompetence, or misconduct.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 260 (Senator Jackson) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 28, 2026
jg/jc

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