

SENATE BILL 611

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6lr2924
CF HB 1151

By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2026

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:

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

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

19 (1) ~~quantify~~ analyze overall Maryland Medical Assistance Program
20 savings per enrollee death as a result of the use of hospice care; and associated with hospice
21 care utilization during the last 6 months of life compared with costs associated with other

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 services provided to Program enrollees during the last 6 months of life, including the impact
 2 on:

3 (i) avoided inpatient hospital stays;

4 (ii) emergency department utilization; and

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

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

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

10 (i) affect hospice hospital readmission rates;

11 (ii) improve hospice length of stay;

12 (iii) improve early access to hospice services;

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

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

15 and

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

18 (i) payment models;

19 (ii) utilization outcomes; and

20 (iii) cost impacts.

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

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 25 1, 2026.