

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 684

(Senator Augustine)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Health Equity Dashboard

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration with the Maryland Commission on Health Equity (MCHE), to develop a clear and easy-to-understand graphic data dashboard that includes age-adjusted health disparity data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender. The data dashboard must include information on health insurance access, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease, mental health and substance abuse, cancer, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infection, and any other health indicators determined relevant by MDH. MDH must update the data dashboard on a quarterly basis, as determined by data availability, and post the most recent updated data dashboard prominently on its website.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH, in collaboration with MCHE, can develop and update a health equity data dashboard using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Established in 2021, the purpose of MCHE is to (1) employ a health equity framework to develop a statewide health equity plan and make specified examinations; (2) provide advice to the Secretary of Health, the State's independent health regulatory commissions, and others on issues of racial, ethnic, cultural, or socioeconomic health disparities; (3) facilitate coordination of expertise and experience in developing a

comprehensive health equity plan addressing the social determinants of health; and (4) set goals for health equity and prepare a plan for the State to achieve health equity in alignment with other statewide planning activities.

Among other things, MCHE is responsible for determining the impact of the following factors on the health of Maryland residents: access to safe and affordable housing; educational attainment; opportunities for employment; economic stability; environmental factors; public safety, as specified; and food insecurity. MCHE must develop and monitor a statewide health equity plan as required by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation under any agreement entered into between the State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. MCHE must, in coordination with the State-designated health information exchange, establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on data collection, needs, quality, reporting, evaluation, and visualization for the commission to carry out its work.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1100 (Delegate White Holland, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2025
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