

# HOUSE BILL 710

K3, J3

4r2337  
CF SB 483

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By: **Delegates Cullison, Hucker, Barkley, Barnes, Carr, Clagett, Donoghue, Frick, Glenn, Gutierrez, Jameson, A. Kelly, Kramer, Lafferty, Lee, Luedtke, McHale, A. Miller, Murphy, Pena–Melnik, Reznik, V. Turner, Waldstreicher, M. Washington, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Health Care Facilities – Workplace Violence**  
3 **Prevention Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain health care facility to establish a certain  
5 workplace violence prevention committee; requiring the workplace violence  
6 prevention committee to establish a certain workplace violence prevention  
7 program; requiring a workplace violence prevention program to include certain  
8 components; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the workplace  
9 violence prevention programs of health care facilities.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Labor and Employment

12 Section 5–1101 through 5–1103 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11.  
13 Health Care Facilities – Workplace Violence Prevention Program”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Violence is a problem in many health care settings in the State and  
18 across the nation and, although violence is an increasing problem for many workers,  
19 health care workers are at particularly high risk; and

20 WHEREAS, According to a 2010 study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
21 violence in the Maryland health care and social assistance industry accounts for 72%  
22 of workplace assaults; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The actual incidence of violence is likely higher than reported for  
2 several reasons, including inadequate reporting mechanisms and because victims  
3 underreport incidents out of fear of reprisal, isolation, and shame; and

4 WHEREAS, Violence against health care workers exacts a significant toll on  
5 victims, their co-workers, patients, families, health care facilities, and visitors to  
6 health care facilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Workers' compensation and insurance claims, lost productivity,  
8 disruptions to operations, legal expenses, and property damage are only a few of the  
9 negative effects that workplace violence has on health care facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, Health care professionals who leave their occupations because of  
11 assaults or threats of assault contribute to the significant problems of recruitment,  
12 retention, and shortage of health care workers; and

13 WHEREAS, It is possible to reduce and mitigate the effects of violence in health  
14 care facilities through employer-based violence prevention programs; now, therefore,

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

17 **Article – Labor and Employment**

18 **SUBTITLE 11. HEALTH CARE FACILITIES – WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**  
19 **PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

20 **5–1101.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
22 **INDICATED.**

23 **(B) “HEALTH CARE FACILITY” MEANS A HOSPITAL OR RELATED**  
24 **INSTITUTION.**

25 **(C) “HEALTH CARE WORKER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY A**  
26 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY.**

27 **(D) “HOSPITAL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 19–301 OF THE**  
28 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

29 **(E) “RELATED INSTITUTION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 19–301 OF**  
30 **THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

1           **(F) “WORKPLACE VIOLENCE” MEANS ANY PHYSICAL ASSAULT,**  
2 **THREATENING BEHAVIOR, OR VERBAL ABUSE COMMITTED BY A PATIENT IN A**  
3 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY AGAINST A HEALTH CARE WORKER.**

4 **5-1102.**

5           **(A) A HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL ESTABLISH A WORKPLACE**  
6 **VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A**  
7 **WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

8           **(B) THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**  
9 **ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE COMPOSED**  
10 **OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHO WORK IN MANAGEMENT AND**  
11 **EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT WORK IN MANAGEMENT.**

12 **5-1103.**

13           **(A) THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE SHALL**  
14 **ESTABLISH A WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT IS**  
15 **APPROPRIATE FOR THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.**

16           **(B) THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED**  
17 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

18                   **(1) A WRITTEN POLICY DESCRIBING HOW THE HEALTH CARE**  
19 **FACILITY PROVIDES FOR THE SECURITY OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS;**

20                   **(2) AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT TO:**

21                           **(I) IDENTIFY HAZARDS, CONDITIONS, OPERATIONS, AND**  
22 **SITUATIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO WORKPLACE VIOLENCE; AND**

23                           **(II) BE USED TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE**  
24 **THE RISK OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE;**

25                   **(3) A PROCESS FOR REPORTING, RESPONDING TO, AND TRACKING**  
26 **INCIDENCES OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE; AND**

27                   **(4) REGULAR WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR**  
28 **HEALTH CARE WORKERS.**

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 October 1, 2014.