

# HOUSE BILL 669

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CF SB 584

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By: **Delegate Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2020

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health and Human Services Referral System – Modifications**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the limit on the number of call centers that may be approved  
4 by 2–1–1 Maryland to provide certain services; repealing certain provisions of law  
5 establishing and governing the Health and Human Services Referral Board in the  
6 Maryland Department of Health; requiring the Department, rather than the Board,  
7 in consultation with 2–1–1 Maryland, as appropriate, to take certain actions related  
8 to 2–1–1 Maryland; replacing the Board with the Department as the entity for which  
9 funding is subject to the availability of certain funds; providing that certain funding  
10 is subject to audit by the Office of Legislative Audits; requiring the Department to  
11 conduct a certain cost analysis and report the results to the Governor, the General  
12 Assembly, and the chair of the Board of Directors of 2–1–1 Maryland on or before a  
13 certain date; making conforming changes; and generally relating to modifications to  
14 the Health and Human Services Referral System.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Health – General  
17 Section 24–1201 through 24–1203, 24–1205, and 24–1206  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2019 Replacement Volume)

20 BY repealing  
21 Article – Health – General  
22 Section 24–1204  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### 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 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

4 **Article – Health – General**

5 24–1201.

6 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 [(b) “Board” means the Health and Human Services Referral Board.]

8 [(c) (B) “Health and Human Services Referral System” means telephone service  
9 that automatically connects an individual dialing the digits 2–1–1 to an established  
10 information and referral answering point.

11 [(d) (C) “2–1–1” means the abbreviated dialing code assigned by the Federal  
12 Communications Commission for consumer access to community information and referral  
13 services.

14 [(e) (D) “2–1–1 Maryland” means the Maryland Information Network, 2–1–1  
15 Maryland, a 501(c)(3) corporation in the State.

16 [(f) (E) “2–1–1 Maryland call center” means a nonprofit agency or organization  
17 designated by 2–1–1 Maryland to provide 2–1–1 services.

18 24–1202.

19 (a) The General Assembly:

20 (1) Recognizes the importance of a statewide information and referral  
21 system for health and human services;

22 (2) Recognizes that an integrated telephone system would provide a single  
23 source for information and referral to health and human services, community  
24 preparedness, and crisis information and could be accessed toll free from anywhere in  
25 Maryland, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year;

26 (3) Acknowledges that the three–digit number, 2–1–1, is a nationally  
27 recognized and applied telephone number which may be used for information and referral  
28 and eliminates delays caused by lack of familiarity with health and human service numbers  
29 and by understandable confusion in circumstances of crisis; and

30 (4) Recognizes a demonstrated need for an easy to remember, easy to use  
31 telephone number that will enable individuals in need to be directed to available  
32 community resources.

1 (b) The [purposes] **PURPOSE** of this subtitle [are] **IS** to[:

2 (1) Establish] **ESTABLISH** the three-digit number, 2-1-1, as the primary  
3 information and referral telephone number for health and human services in the State[;  
4 and

5 (2) Establish a board to oversee the 2-1-1 Maryland call centers and the  
6 operation of a statewide Health and Human Services Referral System in the State].

7 24-1203.

8 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, an agency or organization  
9 shall be approved by 2-1-1 Maryland as a 2-1-1 Maryland call center in order to provide  
10 2-1-1 services in the State.

11 (b) [No more than five call centers may be approved by 2-1-1 Maryland to provide  
12 2-1-1 telephone services in the State.

13 (c)] When approving a 2-1-1 service provider, 2-1-1 Maryland shall consider:

14 (1) The ability of the proposed 2-1-1 service provider to meet the national  
15 2-1-1 standards recommended by:

16 (i) The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems and adopted  
17 by the National 2-1-1 Collaborative; or

18 (ii) An equivalent entity;

19 (2) The financial stability of the proposed 2-1-1 service provider;

20 (3) Any community support for the proposed 2-1-1 service provider;

21 (4) Any experience that the proposed 2-1-1 service provider has with other  
22 information and referral services;

23 (5) The degree to which the county in which the proposed call center is to  
24 be located has dedicated substantial resources to the establishment of a single telephone  
25 source for non-emergency inquiries regarding county services; and

26 (6) Any other criteria that 2-1-1 Maryland considers appropriate.

27 [(d)] (C) If a unit of the State that provides health and human services  
28 establishes a public information telephone line or hotline, the unit shall consult with  
29 2-1-1 Maryland about using the 2-1-1 system to provide public access to information.

1 [24-1204.

2 (a) There is a Health and Human Services Referral Board in the Maryland  
3 Department of Health.

4 (b) The Board shall consist of the following members:

5 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
6 the Senate;

7 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
8 House;

9 (3) The Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

10 (4) The Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

11 (5) The Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;

12 (6) The Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;

13 (7) A representative of the Office of Homeland Security, appointed by the  
14 Governor;

15 (8) A representative of 2-1-1 Maryland, Inc., appointed by the Board of  
16 Directors of 2-1-1 Maryland;

17 (9) A representative of each 2-1-1 Maryland call center, appointed by the  
18 call center;

19 (10) A representative of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network,  
20 appointed by the Governor;

21 (11) A representative of the Maryland State Association of United Ways,  
22 appointed by the Governor; and

23 (12) Two members of the public with experience in telecommunications,  
24 appointed by the Governor.

25 (c) (1) The term of a member is 4 years.

26 (2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is  
27 appointed and qualifies.

28 (3) If a vacancy occurs after a term has begun, a successor shall be  
29 appointed to represent the organization or group in which the vacancy occurs.

1 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the  
2 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

3 (5) A member may not serve more than two consecutive full terms.

4 (d) The Board shall determine the time and place of the meetings and may adopt  
5 rules for the conduct of the meetings.

6 (e) A majority of the Board members constitutes a quorum for transacting  
7 business at any meeting and action by a majority of Board members present at the meeting  
8 shall be an act of the Board.

9 (f) Each year, the Board shall elect from among the members:

10 (1) A chair and vice chair; and

11 (2) Any other officer the Board requires.

12 (g) Each member of the Board:

13 (1) Serves without compensation; but

14 (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
15 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (h) The Maryland State Association of United Ways shall provide staff to the  
17 Board.

18 (i) The composition of the Board as to the race and gender of its members shall  
19 reflect the composition of the population of the State.]

20 [24-1205.] **24-1204.**

21 (a) The [Board] **DEPARTMENT** shall, **IN CONSULTATION WITH 2-1-1**  
22 **MARYLAND, AS APPROPRIATE:**

23 (1) Maintain public information available from State agencies, programs,  
24 and departments that provide health and human services;

25 (2) Support projects and activities that further the development of 2-1-1  
26 Maryland;

27 (3) Examine and make recommendations to maximize the use of  
28 information technology in making 2-1-1 services available throughout the State;

29 (4) Evaluate the performance of each 2-1-1 Maryland call center;

1 (5) Make recommendations to 2–1–1 Maryland regarding the quality of  
2 service provided by call centers or the performance of call centers when issues related to  
3 service quality and performance are presented to the [Board] DEPARTMENT; AND

4 (6) Make recommendations regarding corrective action to be taken by a call  
5 center, as appropriate[; and

6 (7) Develop policies and procedures governing conflict of interest standards  
7 for Board members].

8 (b) On or before December 31, 2005, and every year thereafter, the [Board]  
9 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH 2–1–1 MARYLAND, shall report to the  
10 Governor and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the General  
11 Assembly on the activities performed under subsection (a) of this section.

12 [24–1206.] 24–1205.

13 Funding for the [Board] DEPARTMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE  
14 is subject to [the]:

15 (1) THE availability of appropriated funds; AND

16 (2) AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS UNDER § 2–1220  
17 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
19 2020, the Maryland Department of Health shall:

20 (1) conduct a cost analysis of the 2–1–1 services provided in the State under  
21 Title 24, Subtitle 12 of the Health – General Article that includes a determination regarding  
22 the amount of funding required to:

23 (i) fully support a statewide 2–1–1 hotline;

24 (ii) continue to use 2–1–1 as the primary information and referral  
25 number in the State; and

26 (iii) increase enforcement of the requirement under § 24–1203(c) of  
27 the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, for a unit that provides  
28 health and human services to consult with 2–1–1 Maryland if the unit establishes a public  
29 information telephone line or hotline; and

30 (2) report the results of the cost analysis to the Governor, the General  
31 Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, and the chair of  
32 the Board of Directors of 2–1–1 Maryland.

1 SECTION ~~2~~ 3 AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 2020.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.