

# HOUSE BILL 463

J1

EMERGENCY BILL  
**ENROLLED BILL**

(11r0635)

— *Health and Government Operations and Ways and Means/Budget and Taxation  
and Finance* —

Introduced by **Delegate Barron**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Equity Resource Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Pathways to Health Equity Program in the Community  
4 Health Resources Commission; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring  
5 the Program to provide grant funding for a certain purpose; requiring the  
6 Commission to issue a certain request for proposals and establish certain criteria;  
7 providing for the duration of certain grants; *requiring the Commission to give certain*  
8 *consideration to certain proposals*; requiring certain staff support for the  
9 Commission; requiring the Commission to report to the Governor and the General  
10 Assembly on or before certain dates; establishing a Pathways to Health Equity Fund  
11 in the Commission as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund;  
12 requiring the Commission to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to  
13 hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents  
14 of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; *altering the*

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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.

*Italics* indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 purposes of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund; altering the purposes for  
2 which the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund may be used; requiring the  
3 Governor to transfer and appropriate a certain amount to the Health Equity Resource  
4 Community Reserve Fund in certain fiscal years; requiring, ~~on or before a certain~~  
5 ~~date,~~ the ~~Secretary of Health~~ Community Health Resources Commission to designate  
6 certain areas as Health Equity Resource Communities in a certain manner;  
7 specifying the purpose of establishing Health Equity Resource Communities;  
8 authorizing, beginning on a certain date, the ~~Secretary~~ Commission to adopt certain  
9 regulations; requiring the ~~Secretary to consult with the~~ Office of Minority Health  
10 and Health Disparities to provide certain technical assistance in implementing  
11 certain provisions of this Act; requiring any other unit in the Maryland Department  
12 of Health to provide certain assistance at the request of the Commission in  
13 implementing certain provisions of this Act; ~~requiring the Secretary to allocate staff~~  
14 ~~and resources to carry out certain provisions of this Act;~~ requiring the ~~Secretary~~  
15 Commission to establish a Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee  
16 on or before a certain date; establishing the ~~duties purposes~~ duties of the Advisory  
17 Committee; providing for the composition, ~~cochairs~~ chair, and meetings of the  
18 Advisory Committee; specifying the terms and conditions for the removal of Advisory  
19 Committee members; prohibiting a member of the Advisory Committee from  
20 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
21 expenses; ~~requiring the Secretary~~ authorizing the Commission to convene certain  
22 working and advisory groups; authorizing federally qualified health centers,  
23 nonprofit community-based organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher  
24 education, and local government agencies to apply to the ~~Secretary~~ Commission on  
25 behalf of certain areas for designation as Health Equity Resource Communities;  
26 establishing certain procedures and requirements in connection with the application  
27 process; ~~authorizing~~ requiring an application to include certain elements; requiring  
28 the application to allocate certain funding to cover certain costs for a certain employee;  
29 authorizing nonprofit community-based organizations, nonprofit hospitals,  
30 institutions of higher education, federally qualified health centers, and local  
31 government agencies to contract with a historically black college or university in the  
32 State to provide certain services under certain circumstances; ~~requiring the~~  
33 ~~application to allocate certain funding to cover certain costs for a certain employee;~~  
34 requiring the ~~Secretary~~ Commission to consider certain factors and prioritize certain  
35 applications when designating areas as Health Equity Resource Communities;  
36 authorizing the ~~Secretary~~ Commission to conduct certain outreach for a certain  
37 purpose; establishing certain requirements for an employee to be designated as an  
38 evaluator; establishing that the ~~Secretary's~~ Commission's decision to designate an  
39 area as a Health Equity Resource Community is final; authorizing certain health  
40 care providers who practice in Health Equity Resource Communities to receive certain  
41 assistance and grants; authorizing certain nonprofit community-based  
42 organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education, and local  
43 government agencies to receive certain grants; establishing a Health Equity Resource  
44 Community Reserve Fund; establishing the purpose and contents of the Fund;  
45 requiring the Commission to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to  
46 invest the money of the Fund in a certain manner; requiring the interest earnings of  
47 the Fund to be credited to the Fund; exempting the Fund from a certain provision of

~~law requiring interest earnings on State money to accrue to the General Fund of the State; authorizing certain health care providers who practice in Health Equity Resource Communities to receive certain tax credits, assistance, and grants; authorizing certain nonprofit community-based organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education, and local government agencies to receive certain grants; establishing a Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund; establishing the purpose and contents of the Fund; requiring the Secretary to administer the Fund; requiring the Fund to provide certain money to the Maryland Department of Health to supplement and not supplant existing funding for certain programs; requiring the State Treasurer to invest the money of the Fund in a certain manner; requiring the interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; exempting the Fund from a certain provision of law requiring interest earnings on State money to accrue to the General Fund of the State; requiring certain nonprofit community-based organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education, federally qualified health centers, and local government agencies to submit certain reports; authorizing the Secretary Commission to revoke a designation of an area as a Health Equity Resource Community under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary Commission to submit certain reports; establishing that a designation of an area as a Health Equity Resource Community has a term of a certain length and may be renewed in a certain manner; ~~authorizing certain credits against the State income tax for certain health care providers and organizations under certain circumstances; authorizing certain nonprofit community based organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education, and local government agencies to apply for certain tax credits under certain circumstances for certain health care providers; authorizing a health care practitioner or community based organization to claim a certain refundable tax credit, under certain circumstances; establishing certain procedures and requirements for certifying certain tax credits; establishing a certain limit on the amount of certain tax credits allowed for a fiscal year; requiring the Secretary, in consultation with the Comptroller, to adopt certain regulations; altering the sales and use tax rate for the sale of certain alcoholic beverages; requiring a certain percentage of revenues generated from a certain tax to be credited to the Fund; defining certain terms; providing for the construction of certain provisions of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act and generally relating to health improvement and the reduction of health disparities.~~~~

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 19-2112; and 20-1401 through ~~20-1408~~ ~~20-1406~~ 20-1408 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. Health Equity Resource Communities”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 31-107(a)

1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 2 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 4 Article – Insurance  
 5 Section 31–107(b) and (f)  
 6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 7 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
 9 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
 10 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
 11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 12 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 14 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
 15 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)122. and 123.  
 16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 17 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
 19 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
 20 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)124.  
 21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 22 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

23 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~  
 24 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~  
 25 ~~Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)~~  
 26 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 27 ~~(2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

28 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
 29 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~  
 30 ~~Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)122. and 123.~~  
 31 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 32 ~~(2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

33 ~~BY adding to~~  
 34 ~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~  
 35 ~~Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)124.~~  
 36 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 37 ~~(2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

38 ~~BY adding to~~  
 39 ~~Article – Tax – General~~

1 ~~Section 10-731~~  
 2 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 3 ~~(2016 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

4 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
 5 ~~Article Tax General~~  
 6 ~~Section 11-104(g)~~  
 7 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 8 ~~(2016 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of 2012, the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities  
 11 Reduction Act of 2012, established Health Enterprise Zones to target State resources to  
 12 reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, and reduce health costs and hospital  
 13 admissions and readmissions in specific areas of the State; and

14 WHEREAS, The provisions of that Act abrogated June 30, 2017; and

15 WHEREAS, A 2018 study concluded that the net cost savings under that Act far  
 16 outweighed the initiative's cost to the State and that implementing such an initiative would  
 17 be a viable way to reduce inpatient admissions and reduce health care costs; and

18 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that certain communities  
 19 lack the health care resources they need, leading to disturbing health disparities; now,  
 20 therefore,

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

23 **Article – Health – General**

24 **19-2112.**

25 **(A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A PATHWAYS TO HEALTH**  
 26 **EQUITY PROGRAM.**

27 **(2) (I) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE THE**  
 28 **FOUNDATION AND GUIDANCE FOR A PERMANENT HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE**  
 29 **COMMUNITY PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 14.**

30 **(II) CRISP SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE**  
 31 **COMMISSION BY MAINTAINING A DATA SET AND SUPPORTING PROGRAM**  
 32 **EVALUATION FOR THE PROGRAM.**

1           **(3) (I) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING TO**  
2 **REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES, IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, IMPROVE ACCESS TO**  
3 **PRIMARY CARE, PROMOTE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PREVENTION SERVICES, AND**  
4 **REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND READMISSIONS.**

5           **(II) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A REQUEST FOR**  
6 **PROPOSALS FOR APPLICANTS WITH PROPOSALS FOR PROGRAMS THAT:**

7                   **1. ADDRESS THE CRITERIA LISTED UNDER**  
8 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; AND**

9                   **2. DEMONSTRATE HOW THE PROPOSED PROGRAM**  
10 **COULD BE ~~SUSTAINABLE~~ SELF-SUSTAINABLE AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE**  
11 **COMMUNITY UNDER TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 14 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

12           **(III) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA TO**  
13 **QUALIFY FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

14           **(IV) GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FOR**  
15 **2 YEARS.**

16           **(V) THE COMMISSION SHALL GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO**  
17 **PROPOSALS FROM AREAS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED AS A HEALTH ENTERPRISE**  
18 **ZONE.**

19           **(4) ONE ADDITIONAL STAFF SHALL BE ADDED TO THE COMMISSION**  
20 **TO PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM.**

21           **(5) (I) ON OR BEFORE ~~JANUARY 1, 2022~~ DECEMBER 1, 2021, THE**  
22 **COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**  
23 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**  
24 **ASSEMBLY ON THE GRANTS AWARDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
25 **INCLUDING:**

26                   **1. A LIST AND SUMMARY OF THE GRANTS AWARDED;**

27                   **2. AN OVERVIEW OF KEY INTERVENTIONS IN THE**  
28 **GRANTS AWARDED;**

29                   **3. SPECIFIC HEALTH DISPARITIES THAT WILL BE**  
30 **ADDRESSED BY THE GRANTS; AND**

31                   **4. KEY MEASURES TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF EACH**  
32 **GRANT.**

1                   **(II) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE COMMISSION SHALL**  
2 **ISSUE A FINAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF**  
3 **THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:**

4                   **1. THE GRANTS AWARDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF**  
5 **THIS SUBSECTION, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE GRANTEE'S PROGRAM AND**  
6 **ANY DATA RELATED TO COST SAVINGS ACHIEVED UNDER THE PROGRAM;**

7                   **2. OPTIONS TO DEVELOP, SUSTAIN, AND ESTABLISH A**  
8 **PERMANENT HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY PROGRAM IN THE**  
9 **DEPARTMENT;**

10                   **3. COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF**  
11 **A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY;**

12                   **4. WORKFORCE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES TO BE**  
13 **USED BY A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY; AND**

14                   **5. ANY RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE**  
15 **RECOMMENDATIONS, RELATED TO HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES**  
16 **ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 14 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

17                   **(B) (1) THERE IS A PATHWAYS TO HEALTH EQUITY FUND IN THE**  
18 **COMMISSION.**

19                   **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO IMPLEMENT THE**  
20 **REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION THROUGH GRANT FUNDING**  
21 **AND STAFF SUPPORT.**

22                   **(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

23                   **(4) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
24 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

25                   **(II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND**  
26 **SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

27                   **(5) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

28                   **(I) THE \$14,000,000 AUTHORIZED FOR THE COMMISSION**  
29 **UNDER CHAPTER 39 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2021; AND**

1                    (II) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED  
2 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

3                    (6) THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AN AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF  
4 LEGISLATIVE AUDITS AS PROVIDED FOR IN § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
5 ARTICLE.

6                    (7) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO IMPLEMENT THE  
7 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND TO EVALUATE THE  
8 IMPACT OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM.

9                    (8) (I) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND TO IMPLEMENT THE  
10 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND TO EVALUATE THE  
11 IMPACT OF GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM IS NOT INTENDED TO  
12 SUPLANT FUNDING THAT IS APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE  
13 WITH § 14-106(D)(2)(II) OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE AND DEPOSITED IN THE  
14 COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION FUND FOR THE PURPOSES SET  
15 FORTH UNDER § 19-2201 OF THIS TITLE.

16                    (II) THE FUND MAY NOT BE COMMINGLED OR COMBINED WITH  
17 THE COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION FUND.

18                    SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
19 as follows:

20                    Article – Health – General

21                    SUBTITLE 14. HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES.

22                    20-1401.

23                    (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
24 INDICATED.

25                    (B) “ADVISORY COMMITTEE” MEANS THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE  
26 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

27                    (C) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES  
28 COMMISSION.

29                    (D) “COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
30 13-3701 OF THIS ARTICLE.



1 ~~(C) “COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §~~  
 2 ~~13-3701 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

3 ~~(D) (C) (E)~~ “FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER” HAS THE MEANING  
 4 STATED IN § 24-1301 OF THIS ARTICLE.

5 (F) “FUND” MEANS THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE  
 6 FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 20-1407 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 (G) “HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR,  
 8 COLLECTIVELY, A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER WITHIN THE SAME  
 9 PRACTICE, EACH OF WHOM IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED  
 10 BY LAW TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS  
 11 ARTICLE.

12 ~~(E) “FUND” MEANS THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY~~  
 13 ~~RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 20-1407 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

14 ~~(F) “HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR,~~  
 15 ~~COLLECTIVELY, A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER WITHIN THE SAME~~  
 16 ~~PRACTICE, EACH OF WHOM IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED~~  
 17 ~~BY LAW TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS~~  
 18 ~~ARTICLE.~~

19 ~~(C) (D) (H)~~ “HEALTH DISPARITY” MEANS A PARTICULAR TYPE OF HEALTH  
 20 DIFFERENCE, SUCH AS A DIFFERENCE IN RATES OF HYPERTENSION, HEART  
 21 DISEASE, ASTHMA, DIABETES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS,  
 22 AND MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY, THAT:

23 (1) IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, OR  
 24 ENVIRONMENTAL DISADVANTAGE; AND

25 (2) ADVERSELY AFFECTS GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE  
 26 SYSTEMATICALLY EXPERIENCED GREATER OBSTACLES TO HEALTH CARE BASED ON  
 27 THEIR:

28 (I) RACE OR ETHNICITY;

29 (II) RELIGION;

30 (III) SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS;

31 (IV) GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION;

- 1 (V) AGE;
- 2 (VI) MENTAL HEALTH STATUS;
- 3 (VII) COGNITIVE, SENSORY, OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY;
- 4 (VIII) GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION; OR
- 5 (IX) OTHER CHARACTERISTIC HISTORICALLY LINKED TO
- 6 DISCRIMINATION OR EXCLUSION.

7 ~~(H)~~ ~~(E)~~ (I) "HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY" MEANS A

8 CONTIGUOUS GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT:

9 (1) DEMONSTRATES MEASURABLE AND DOCUMENTED HEALTH

10 DISPARITIES AND POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES;

11 (2) IS SMALL ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR THE INCENTIVES OFFERED

12 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON IMPROVING HEALTH

13 OUTCOMES AND REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES, INCLUDING RACIAL, ETHNIC,

14 GEOGRAPHIC, AND DISABILITY RELATED HEALTH DISPARITIES;

15 (3) IS DESIGNATED BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION IN

16 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

17 (4) HAS A MINIMUM POPULATION OF 5,000 RESIDENTS.

18 ~~(H)~~ ~~(F)~~ (J) "HOSPITAL" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 19-301 OF THIS

19 ARTICLE.

20 ~~(J)~~ ~~(G)~~ (K) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" HAS THE MEANING

21 STATED IN § 10-101 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

22 20-1402.

23 (A) THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE

24 COMMUNITIES IS TO TARGET STATE RESOURCES TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE STATE

25 TO:

- 26 (1) REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES;
- 27 (2) IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES;
- 28 (3) IMPROVE ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE;

1 (4) PROMOTE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PREVENTION SERVICES;  
2 AND

3 (5) REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND  
4 READMISSIONS.

5 (B) (1) ~~THE BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, THE SECRETARY~~ THE  
6 COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
7 SUBTITLE AND TO SPECIFY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION, APPROVAL,  
8 AND MONITORING PROCESSES FOR THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED UNDER THIS  
9 SUBTITLE.

10 (2) (I) ~~THE SECRETARY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE OFFICE OF~~  
11 MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL  
12 ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
13 SUBTITLE.

14 (II) AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION, ANY OTHER UNIT IN  
15 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION IN  
16 IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17 (C) TWO ADDITIONAL STAFF SHALL BE ADDED TO THE COMMISSION TO  
18 CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

19 ~~(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ALLOCATE STAFF AND RESOURCES AS~~  
20 ~~NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

21 20-1403.

22 (A) (1) ON OR BEFORE ~~DECEMBER~~ JULY 1, 2021, THE ~~SECRETARY~~  
23 COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY  
24 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

25 ~~(2) THE DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INCLUDE:~~

26 ~~(I) PROVIDING INITIAL AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE AND~~  
27 ~~GUIDANCE REGARDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND~~  
28 ~~MONITORING PROCESSES FOR HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES AND~~  
29 ~~HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH PRACTITIONERS;~~

30 ~~(II) COORDINATING WITH THE SECRETARY AS TO THE~~  
31 ~~REQUIRED ANNUAL REPORT DESCRIBED IN § 20-1408(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND~~

~~(H) PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO THE SECRETARY AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(2) THE PURPOSES DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE TO INCLUDE:~~

~~(I) PROVIDE PROVIDING INITIAL AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY AND GUIDANCE REGARDING PROGRAM EVALUATION AND DATA COLLECTION METRICS FOR HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION IN DEVELOPING THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER § 19-2112 OF THIS ARTICLE EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH PRACTITIONERS;~~

~~(II) PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE SECRETARY AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE ASSISTING THE COMMISSION IN PREPARING THE REQUIRED ANNUAL REPORT DESCRIBED IN § 20-1408(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND § 19-2112 OF THIS ARTICLE;~~

~~(III) PROVIDE INITIAL AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE REGARDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND MONITORING PROCESSES FOR HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCES COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE PRACTITIONERS PROPOSING STRATEGIES FOR TAX INCENTIVES AND LOAN REPAYMENTS TO ASSIST HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES IN ACHIEVING THEIR MISSION; AND~~

~~(IV) IDENTIFY LONG TERM FUNDING STRATEGIES PROVIDING GUIDANCE, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, TO THE COMMISSION AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

(B) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:

~~(1) THE CHAIR CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;~~

~~(2) AN INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE IN HEALTH EQUITY, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;~~

~~(3) AN INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE IN SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;~~

~~(4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICERS; AND~~

1           ~~(1) (5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE~~  
2 ~~GOVERNOR;~~

3           ~~(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAL~~  
4 ~~ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;~~

5           ~~(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF POPULATION~~  
6 ~~HEALTH IMPROVEMENT; AND~~

7           ~~(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PREVENTION AND HEALTH~~  
8 ~~PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION~~ THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY  
9 HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

10           (3) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, INCLUDING:

11           (I) ONE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING THE MARYLAND  
12 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND

13           (II) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE IN HEALTH CARE  
14 FINANCING;

15           (4) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
16 SENATE, INCLUDING:

17           (I) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE IN THE SOCIAL  
18 DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH; AND

19           (II) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL  
20 PUBLIC RESIDING IN AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN OR MAY BE DESIGNATED A HEALTH  
21 EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY; AND

22           (5) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE,  
23 INCLUDING:

24           (I) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE IN HEALTH EQUITY; AND

25           (II) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL  
26 PUBLIC RESIDING IN AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN OR MAY BE DESIGNATED A HEALTH  
27 EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY;

28           ~~(IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN~~  
29 ~~SERVICES;~~

1 ~~(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF~~  
2 ~~TRANSPORTATION;~~

3 ~~(VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COST~~  
4 ~~REVIEW COMMISSION; AND~~

5 ~~(VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL~~  
6 ~~PUBLIC AND WHO RESIDES IN AN AREA WHICH HAS BEEN OR MAY BE DESIGNATED AS~~  
7 ~~A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY; AND~~

8 ~~(2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF~~  
9 ~~THE SENATE:~~

10 ~~(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF PHYSICIANS;~~

11 ~~(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF NURSES;~~

12 ~~(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF HOSPITALS;~~

13 ~~(IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF DENTISTS;~~

14 ~~(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH~~  
15 ~~COMMUNITY;~~

16 ~~(VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL~~  
17 ~~INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS;~~

18 ~~(VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF ACCOUNTABLE HEALTH~~  
19 ~~COMMUNITIES;~~

20 ~~(VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A CARE TRANSFORMATION~~  
21 ~~ORGANIZATION; AND~~

22 ~~(IX) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL~~  
23 ~~PUBLIC AND RESIDES IN AN AREA WHICH HAS BEEN OR MAY BE DESIGNATED AS A~~  
24 ~~HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY; AND~~

25 ~~(3) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE~~  
26 ~~HOUSE:~~

27 ~~(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE~~  
28 ~~ADVOCACY COALITION;~~

1 ~~(H) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE CONSUMER~~  
2 ~~ADVOCACY GROUP;~~

3 ~~(HH) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ADVOCACY~~  
4 ~~ORGANIZATION FOR SENIORS;~~

5 ~~(IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION~~  
6 ~~FOR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES;~~

7 ~~(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LABOR UNION;~~

8 ~~(VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN AREA PREVIOUSLY~~  
9 ~~DESIGNATED AS A HEALTH ENTERPRISE ZONE;~~

10 ~~(VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE IMMIGRANT~~  
11 ~~ADVOCACY GROUP; AND~~

12 ~~(VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL~~  
13 ~~PUBLIC AND RESIDES IN AN AREA WHICH HAS BEEN OR MAY BE DESIGNATED AS A~~  
14 ~~HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.~~

15 ~~(c) (1) COLLECTIVELY, THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~  
16 ~~SHALL HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FOLLOWING:~~

17 ~~(i) EXISTING OR POTENTIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE~~  
18 ~~STATE;~~

19 ~~(ii) GROUPS OF RESIDENTS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY HEALTH~~  
20 ~~DISPARITIES;~~

21 ~~(iii) SYSTEMS, POLICIES, AND METHODS LIKELY TO IMPROVE~~  
22 ~~HEALTH OUTCOMES AND REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES;~~

23 ~~(iv) EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES;~~

24 ~~(v) HEALTH CARE COSTS, TRENDS, AND DRIVERS;~~

25 ~~(vi) CLINICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH; AND~~

26 ~~(vii) CONSUMER OR PATIENT PERSPECTIVES.~~

27 ~~(2) (C) (1) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT~~  
28 ~~WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~  
29 ~~SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE~~

1 COLLECTIVELY, THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE  
 2 KNOWLEDGE OF THE FOLLOWING:

3 (I) EXISTING OR POTENTIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE  
 4 STATE;

5 (II) GROUPS OF RESIDENTS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY HEALTH  
 6 DISPARITIES;

7 (III) SYSTEMS, POLICIES, AND METHODS LIKELY TO IMPROVE  
 8 HEALTH OUTCOMES AND REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES;

9 (IV) EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES;

10 (V) HEALTH CARE COSTS, TRENDS, AND DRIVERS;

11 (VI) CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH;

12 (VII) CONSUMER OR PATIENT PERSPECTIVES; AND

13 (VIII) INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF  
 14 HEALTH THROUGH THE USE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

15 ~~(3) THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE THREE COCHAIRS FROM~~  
 16 ~~AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.~~

17 ~~(2) (I) BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND~~  
 18 ~~COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION SHALL CHAIR THE ADVISORY~~  
 19 ~~COMMITTEE.~~

20 ~~(II) ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2023, THE SECRETARY SHALL~~  
 21 ~~DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF~~ TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH  
 22 FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL  
 23 REFLECT THE RACIAL, ETHNIC, GEOGRAPHIC, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE  
 24 STATE.

25 (3) THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES  
 26 COMMISSION SHALL CHAIR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

27 (D) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS 4  
 28 YEARS.

29 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL STAGGER THE TERMS OF THE INITIAL  
 30 APPOINTED MEMBERS.



1 ~~(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL STAGGER THE TERMS OF THE INITIAL~~  
 2 ~~APPOINTED MEMBERS.~~

3 ~~(3) (2) (3)~~ AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE  
 4 UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

5 ~~(4) (3) (4)~~ A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN  
 6 SERVES ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS  
 7 APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

8 ~~(5) (4) (5)~~ THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION MAY REMOVE AN  
 9 APPOINTED MEMBER FOR INCOMPETENCE, MISCONDUCT, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM  
 10 THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION.

11 (E) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

12 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
 13 ADVISORY COMMITTEE; BUT

14 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
 15 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

16 (F) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL:

17 (1) ON OR BEFORE ~~JANUARY 1, 2022~~ ~~AUGUST 1, 2021~~ JANUARY 1,  
 18 2022, HOLD AN INITIAL MEETING; AND

19 (2) MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY ~~6~~ 4 ~~6~~ MONTHS THEREAFTER.

20 ~~(G) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT THE SECRETARY~~  
 21 ~~FROM CONVENING OTHER FORMAL OR INFORMAL WORKING OR ADVISORY GROUPS~~  
 22 ~~TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

23 (G) ~~THE SECRETARY SHALL~~ COMMISSION MAY CONVENE WORKING OR  
 24 ADVISORY GROUPS TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT  
 25 SHALL INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS WHO RESIDE IN AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN OR MAY BE  
 26 DESIGNATED AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.

27 20-1404.

28 (A) FOR AN AREA TO RECEIVE A DESIGNATION AS A HEALTH EQUITY  
 29 RESOURCE COMMUNITY, ~~A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER,~~ A NONPROFIT  
 30 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF

1 HIGHER EDUCATION, A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER, OR A LOCAL  
2 GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHALL ~~APPLY~~;

3 (1) APPLY TO THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE  
4 AREA TO RECEIVE THE DESIGNATION; AND

5 (2) INCLUDE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS OR OTHER  
6 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE HEALTH OR WRAPAROUND  
7 SUPPORT SERVICES WITHIN THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.

8 (B) SUBJECT TO ~~SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (E)~~ SUBSECTION (C) ~~SUBSECTIONS~~  
9 ~~(C) AND (E)~~ OF THIS SECTION, THE APPLICATION SHALL BE IN THE FORM AND  
10 MANNER AND CONTAIN THE INFORMATION THAT THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION  
11 REQUIRES.

12 (C) (1) THE APPLICATION SHALL CONTAIN AN EFFECTIVE AND  
13 SUSTAINABLE PLAN TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES, REDUCE COSTS OR PRODUCE  
14 SAVINGS TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES.

15 (2) THE APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:

16 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PLAN WILL EXPAND  
17 FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS' OR OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED  
18 ORGANIZATIONS' CAPACITY TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES OR WRAPAROUND  
19 SERVICES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH; AND

20 ~~(I)~~ (II) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW FUNDING ~~THAT MAY BE~~  
21 AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE WILL BE USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES  
22 THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED, CROSS-SECTOR STRATEGIES THAT MAY INCLUDE:

- 23 1. BUILDING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CAPACITY;
- 24 2. IMPROVING HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY;
- 25 3. EFFECTUATING COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS;
- 26 4. CONDUCTING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS;
- 27 5. IMPLEMENTING SYSTEMIC STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE  
28 COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ACROSS ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE  
29 HEALTH CARE SERVICES;
- 30 6. SUPPORTING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP  
31 DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS;

1                   7.     FACILITATING POLICY INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS  
2 UPSTREAM DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH; AND

3                   8.     IMPLEMENTING SCALABLE APPROACHES TO MEET  
4 THE NONMEDICAL SOCIAL NEEDS OF POPULATIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST  
5 RECENT COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT, SUCH AS UNSTABLE HOUSING,  
6 INADEQUATE FOOD, OR JOB DEVELOPMENT;~~AND~~

7                   ~~(H)   A PROPOSAL TO USE FUNDING AVAILABLE UNDER THIS~~  
8 ~~SUBTITLE TO PROVIDE FOR LOAN REPAYMENT INCENTIVES TO INDUCE HEALTH~~  
9 ~~CARE PRACTITIONERS TO PRACTICE IN THE AREA.~~

10                 (D)   THE APPLICATION MAY INCLUDE:

11                   (1)   A PROPOSAL TO USE FUNDING AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE  
12 TO PROVIDE FOR LOAN REPAYMENT INCENTIVES TO INDUCE HEALTH CARE  
13 PRACTITIONERS TO PRACTICE IN THE AREA;

14                   (2)   A PROPOSAL TO USE INNOVATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES TO  
15 REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE AREA THAT MAY BE SUPPORTED BY GRANTS  
16 AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, SUCH AS THE USE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
17 WORKERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH  
18 CENTERS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY-BASED DISEASE  
19 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES; AND

20                   (3)   A PROPOSAL TO USE OTHER INCENTIVES OR MECHANISMS TO  
21 ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES THAT FOCUS ON WAYS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE,  
22 EXPAND ACCESS TO NONMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS THAT PROMOTE IMPROVED  
23 HEALTH OUTCOMES, PROMOTE HIRING, AND REDUCE COSTS TO THE HEALTH CARE  
24 SYSTEM.

25                   (E)   THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION  
26 SHALL ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO COVER SALARY AND BENEFIT COSTS FOR  
27 THE EVALUATOR REQUIRED UNDER § 20-1406 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

28                 ~~(D)   THE APPLICATION MAY INCLUDE:~~

29                   ~~(1)   A PLAN TO USE TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE~~  
30 ~~AND § 10-731 OF THE TAX — GENERAL ARTICLE AND OTHER RESOURCES TO~~  
31 ~~ENCOURAGE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO~~  
32 ~~ESTABLISH OR EXPAND HEALTH CARE PRACTICES IN THE AREA;~~

1           ~~(2) A PROPOSAL TO USE INNOVATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES~~  
2 ~~TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE AREA THAT MAY BE SUPPORTED BY~~  
3 ~~GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, SUCH AS THE USE OF COMMUNITY~~  
4 ~~HEALTH WORKERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH~~  
5 ~~CENTERS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY-BASED DISEASE~~  
6 ~~MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES; AND~~

7           ~~(3) A PROPOSAL TO USE OTHER INCENTIVES OR MECHANISMS TO~~  
8 ~~ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES THAT FOCUS ON WAYS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE,~~  
9 ~~EXPAND ACCESS TO NONMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS THAT PROMOTE IMPROVED~~  
10 ~~HEALTH OUTCOMES, PROMOTE HIRING, AND REDUCE COSTS TO THE HEALTH CARE~~  
11 ~~SYSTEM.~~

12           ~~(E) THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION~~  
13 ~~SHALL ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO COVER SALARY AND BENEFIT COSTS FOR~~  
14 ~~THE EVALUATOR REQUIRED UNDER § 20-1406 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

15 20-1405.

16           (A) (1) ~~THE BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, THE SECRETARY SHALL~~ ON OR  
17 BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2022, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A REQUEST FOR  
18 PROPOSALS TO DESIGNATE AREAS AS HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES  
19 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

20           (2) ~~THE SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION:

21                   (I) SHALL CONSIDER GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY, AMONG OTHER  
22 FACTORS, WHEN DESIGNATING AREAS AS HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE  
23 COMMUNITIES; AND

24                   (II) MAY CONDUCT OUTREACH EFFORTS TO FACILITATE A  
25 GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE POOL OF APPLICANTS, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO  
26 FACILITATE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FROM RURAL AREAS.

27           (3) AFTER RECEIVING ALL APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE  
28 ~~SECRETARY COMMISSION~~, THE ~~SECRETARY COMMISSION~~ SHALL REPORT TO THE  
29 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT  
30 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE  
31 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE NAMES OF APPLICANTS AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS  
32 IN WHICH APPLICANTS ARE LOCATED.

33           (B) ~~THE SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICATIONS  
34 THAT DEMONSTRATE:

1 (1) SUPPORT FROM AND PARTICIPATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN  
2 THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, INCLUDING RESIDENTS OF THE AREA AND  
3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

4 (2) A PLAN FOR LONG-TERM FUNDING AND ~~SUSTAINABILITY~~  
5 SELF-SUSTAINABILITY;

6 (3) INCLUSION OF SUPPORTING FUNDS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR;

7 (4) INTEGRATION WITH THE STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT  
8 PROCESS AND ~~THE STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROCESS AND~~ THE GOALS SET  
9 OUT IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE LOCAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION;

10 (5) A PLAN FOR EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF DESIGNATION OF  
11 THE PROPOSED AREA AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY AND  
12 STRATEGIES FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT; ~~AND~~

13 (6) OTHER FACTORS THAT THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION  
14 DETERMINE ARE APPROPRIATE TO DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO REDUCE  
15 HEALTH DISPARITIES AND IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES; AND

16 (7) A PREVIOUS DESIGNATION AS A HEALTH ENTERPRISE ZONE OR  
17 INCLUSION OF AREAS PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED IN A HEALTH ENTERPRISE ZONE.

18 (c) (1) AN APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS A HEALTH  
19 EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY SUBMITTED BY A ~~FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH~~  
20 ~~CENTER, A~~ NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A NONPROFIT  
21 HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED  
22 HEALTH CENTER, OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE  
23 EMPLOYMENT AND SUPERVISION OF EMPLOYMENT OF ONE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE  
24 TO SERVE AS AN EVALUATOR OF THE OPERATION, IMPACT, AND EFFECTIVENESS OF  
25 THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY DESIGNATED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (2) TO BE DESIGNATED AS AN EVALUATOR UNDER THIS SUBSECTION,  
27 THE EMPLOYEE MUST DEMONSTRATE EXPERIENCE IN METHODS OF QUALITATIVE  
28 AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

29 (3) AN EMPLOYEE DESIGNATED AS AN EVALUATOR UNDER THIS  
30 SUBSECTION SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE ~~SECRETARY AND THE ADVISORY~~  
31 ~~COMMITTEE~~ COMMISSION TO:

32 (i) MONITOR THE OPERATION, EFFECTIVENESS, AND IMPACT  
33 OF THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY; AND

1 (II) PROVIDE DATA, STATISTICS, AND ANALYSIS TO THE  
2 ~~SECRETARY AND THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE~~  
3 COMMISSION THAT SHALL ADDRESS THE REPORTING ELEMENTS SPECIFIED UNDER  
4 ~~§ 20-1408(B)~~ ~~20-1406(B)~~ 20-1408(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5 (D) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT TO HIRE A FULL-TIME  
6 EMPLOYEE TO SERVE AS AN EVALUATOR UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,  
7 A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL, AN  
8 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER, OR  
9 A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY MAY CONTRACT WITH A HISTORICALLY BLACK  
10 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE EVALUATOR SERVICES.

11 (E) THE DECISION OF THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION TO DESIGNATE AN  
12 AREA AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY SHALL BE A FINAL DECISION.

13 ~~(E)~~ (F) A DESIGNATION BY THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION OF AN AREA AS  
14 A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY SHALL HAVE A TERM OF 5 YEARS AND  
15 MAY BE RENEWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPLICATION APPROVED BY THE  
16 ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION.

17 20-1406.

18 (A) HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS  
19 THAT PRACTICE IN A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY MAY RECEIVE LOAN  
20 REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE APPLICATION FOR  
21 DESIGNATION FOR THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY AND APPROVED BY  
22 THE COMMISSION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

23 (B) (1) A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER  
24 MAY APPLY TO THE COMMISSION FOR A GRANT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF CAPITAL  
25 OR LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS TO, OR MEDICAL OR DENTAL EQUIPMENT TO BE  
26 USED IN, A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.

27 (2) TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
28 SUBSECTION, A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER  
29 SHALL:

30 (I) OWN OR LEASE THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY; AND

31 (II) PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FROM THAT FACILITY.

32 (3) (I) A GRANT TO DEFRAY THE COST OF MEDICAL OR DENTAL  
33 EQUIPMENT MAY NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF \$25,000 OR 50% OF THE COST OF THE  
34 EQUIPMENT.

1            (II) GRANTS FOR CAPITAL OR LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS  
2 SHALL BE FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPROVING OR EXPANDING THE DELIVERY OF  
3 HEALTH CARE IN THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.

4            (C) (1) A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A NONPROFIT  
5 HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED  
6 HEALTH CENTER, OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES APPROVAL OF  
7 AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER § 20-1403 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY SUBMIT AN  
8 APPLICATION, ON ITS OWN BEHALF, TO RECEIVE GRANTS FOR CAPITAL OR  
9 LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, FOR THE  
10 PURPOSES DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(3)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

11            (2) SUBJECT TO § 20-1408(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE TERM OF  
12 ANY GRANT AWARDED TO A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A  
13 NONPROFIT HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A FEDERALLY  
14 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER, OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR CAPITAL OR  
15 LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS SHALL HAVE A TERM OF 5 YEARS, AND MAY BE RENEWED  
16 IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPLICATION APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

17 20-1407.

18            (A) THERE IS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND.

19            (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:

20            (1) SUPPORT AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION AS HEALTH  
21 EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED  
22 ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
23 FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, HEALTH  
24 CARE PRACTITIONERS, AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO FACILITATE  
25 REDUCTION OF HEALTH DISPARITIES, IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, PROVIDE DRUG  
26 TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, AND REDUCE HEALTH COSTS AND HOSPITAL  
27 ADMISSIONS AND READMISSIONS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE STATE; AND

28            (2) PROVIDE FUNDING TO SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT  
29 EXISTING FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE  
30 PREVENTION, RECOVERY SUPPORT, AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES FOR  
31 INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS.

32            (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

33            (D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
34 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

1           (2) ANY UNSPENT PORTION OF THE FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED  
2 OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND TO BE USED  
3 FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

4           (3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
5 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

6           (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

7           (1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND IN  
8 ACCORDANCE WITH § 31-107 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE;

9           (2) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

10           (3) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE  
11 BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

12           (F) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE  
13 COMMISSION FOR THE SUPPORT OF AREAS DESIGNATED AS HEALTH EQUITY  
14 RESOURCE COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO COMMUNITY-BASED  
15 ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS, FEDERALLY  
17 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO REDUCE  
18 HEALTH DISPARITIES, IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, PROVIDE ADDICTION AND  
19 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND REDUCE HEALTH COSTS AND HOSPITAL  
20 ADMISSIONS AND READMISSIONS.

21           (G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND  
22 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

23           (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO  
24 THE FUND.

25           (H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
26 WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

27           (I) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND TO SUPPORT AREAS DESIGNATED  
28 BY THE COMMISSION AS HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES UNDER THIS  
29 SUBTITLE IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND NOT INTENDED TO SUPPLANT FUNDING THAT  
30 OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THOSE PURPOSES.



1 ~~(A) HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS~~  
2 ~~THAT PRACTICE IN A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY MAY RECEIVE:~~

3 ~~(1) TAX CREDITS AGAINST THE STATE INCOME TAX AS PROVIDED~~  
4 ~~UNDER § 10-731 OF THE TAX GENERAL ARTICLE; AND~~

5 ~~(2) LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE~~  
6 ~~APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION FOR THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE~~  
7 ~~COMMUNITY AND APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.~~

8 ~~(B) (1) A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR COMMUNITY HEALTH~~  
9 ~~WORKER MAY APPLY TO THE SECRETARY FOR A GRANT TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF~~  
10 ~~CAPITAL OR LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS TO, OR MEDICAL OR DENTAL EQUIPMENT~~  
11 ~~TO BE USED IN, A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.~~

12 ~~(2) TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS~~  
13 ~~SUBSECTION, A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER~~  
14 ~~SHALL:~~

15 ~~(I) OWN OR LEASE THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY; AND~~

16 ~~(II) PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FROM THAT FACILITY.~~

17 ~~(3) (I) A GRANT TO DEFRAY THE COST OF MEDICAL OR DENTAL~~  
18 ~~EQUIPMENT MAY NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF \$25,000 OR 50% OF THE COST OF THE~~  
19 ~~EQUIPMENT.~~

20 ~~(II) GRANTS FOR CAPITAL OR LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS~~  
21 ~~SHALL BE FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPROVING OR EXPANDING THE DELIVERY OF~~  
22 ~~HEALTH CARE IN THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.~~

23 ~~(C) (1) A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A NONPROFIT~~  
24 ~~HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT~~  
25 ~~AGENCY THAT RECEIVES APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER §~~  
26 ~~20-1403 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, ON ITS OWN BEHALF, TO~~  
27 ~~RECEIVE GRANTS FOR CAPITAL OR LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AS DETERMINED~~  
28 ~~BY THE SECRETARY, FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(3)(II)~~  
29 ~~OF THIS SECTION.~~

30 ~~(2) SUBJECT TO § 20-1408(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE TERM OF~~  
31 ~~ANY GRANT AWARDED TO A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, A~~  
32 ~~NONPROFIT HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A LOCAL~~  
33 ~~GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR CAPITAL OR LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS UNDER THIS~~

1 ~~SUBSECTION SHALL HAVE A TERM OF 5 YEARS, AND MAY BE RENEWED IN~~  
2 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPLICATION APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY.~~

3 ~~20-1407.~~

4 ~~(A) THERE IS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND.~~

5 ~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:~~

6 ~~(1) SUPPORT AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY AS HEALTH~~  
7 ~~EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING GRANTS OR TAX CREDITS TO~~  
8 ~~COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, NONPROFIT HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS OF~~  
9 ~~HIGHER EDUCATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE~~  
10 ~~PRACTITIONERS, AND COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO FACILITATE REDUCTION~~  
11 ~~OF HEALTH DISPARITIES, IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES, PROVIDE DRUG~~  
12 ~~TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, AND REDUCE HEALTH COSTS AND HOSPITAL~~  
13 ~~ADMISSIONS AND READMISSIONS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE STATE; AND~~

14 ~~(2) PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPLEMENT AND~~  
15 ~~NOT SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS THAT~~  
16 ~~PROVIDE PREVENTION, RECOVERY SUPPORT, AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES FOR~~  
17 ~~INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS.~~

18 ~~(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.~~

19 ~~(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT~~  
20 ~~SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

21 ~~(2) ANY UNSPENT PORTION OF THE FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED~~  
22 ~~OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND TO BE USED~~  
23 ~~FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.~~

24 ~~(3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,~~  
25 ~~AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.~~

26 ~~(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:~~

27 ~~(1) 10% OF THE INCOME GENERATED FROM ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE~~  
28 ~~TAX REVENUE UNDER § 11-104(C) OF THE TAX GENERAL ARTICLE;~~

29 ~~(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;~~

30 ~~(3) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND~~

1           ~~(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR~~  
2 ~~THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.~~

3           ~~(F) THE FUND ANNUALLY SHALL PROVIDE MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT TO~~  
4 ~~SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH~~  
5 ~~PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE PREVENTION, RECOVERY SUPPORT, AND HARM~~  
6 ~~REDUCTION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL~~  
7 ~~HEALTH DISORDERS IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:~~

8           ~~(1) \$1,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022; AND~~

9           ~~(2) \$2,000,000 FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.~~

10           ~~(G) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, THE FUND~~  
11 ~~MAY BE USED ONLY TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE SUPPORT~~  
12 ~~OF AREAS DESIGNATED AS HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES BY~~  
13 ~~PROVIDING GRANTS OR TAX CREDITS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS,~~  
14 ~~NONPROFIT HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, LOCAL~~  
15 ~~GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED~~  
16 ~~HEALTH CENTERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS, AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER~~  
17 ~~EDUCATION TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES, IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES,~~  
18 ~~PROVIDE ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND REDUCE HEALTH COSTS~~  
19 ~~AND HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND READMISSIONS.~~

20           ~~(H) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND~~  
21 ~~IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.~~

22           ~~(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO~~  
23 ~~THE FUND.~~

24           ~~(I) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE~~  
25 ~~WITH THE STATE BUDGET.~~

26           ~~(J) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND TO SUPPORT AREAS DESIGNATED~~  
27 ~~BY THE SECRETARY AS HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES UNDER THIS~~  
28 ~~SUBTITLE IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO SUPPLANT FUNDING~~  
29 ~~THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THOSE PURPOSES.~~

30 ~~20-1408. 20-1406. 20-1408.~~

31           ~~(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2024,~~  
32 ~~EACH~~ EACH NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, NONPROFIT  
33 HOSPITAL, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH  
34 CENTER, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HAS SUBMITTED A SUCCESSFUL

1 APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE  
2 COMMUNITY UNDER § 20-1403 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE  
3 ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION A REPORT THAT INCLUDES:

4 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS MADE TOWARD THE  
5 OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN THE APPLICATION; ~~AND~~

6 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES TO BE MET DURING THE  
7 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YEAR; AND

8 (III) ANY OTHER INFORMATION AS REQUESTED BY THE  
9 COMMISSION.

10 (2) THE REPORTING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
11 SUBSECTION SHALL BE PERIODICALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE  
12 DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

13 ~~(2)~~ (3) THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION MAY REVOKE A  
14 DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY IF THE  
15 NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, NONPROFIT HOSPITAL,  
16 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER, OR  
17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HAS SUBMITTED A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION  
18 FOR DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY FAILS  
19 TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES PROVIDED TO THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION UNDER  
20 SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION FOR A GIVEN YEAR.

21 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15 EACH YEAR, ~~BEGINNING IN 2024,~~  
22 THE ~~SECRETARY~~ COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN  
23 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
24 ASSEMBLY A REPORT THAT INCLUDES:

25 (I) THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF INCENTIVES GRANTED IN EACH  
26 HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY;

27 (II) EVIDENCE OF THE IMPACT OF THE LOAN REPAYMENT  
28 INCENTIVES IN ATTRACTING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND COMMUNITY  
29 HEALTH WORKERS TO HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES;

30 ~~(III) EVIDENCE OF THE IMPACT OF THE TAX AND LOAN~~  
31 ~~REPAYMENT INCENTIVES IN ATTRACTING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND~~  
32 ~~COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITIES;~~



1 (f) (1) The Fund may be used only:

2 [(1)] (I) for the operation and administration of the Exchange in carrying  
 3 out the purposes authorized under this subtitle; [and]

4 [(2)] (II) for the establishment and operation of the State Reinsurance  
 5 Program; AND

6 (III) FOR APPROPRIATIONS TO THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE  
 7 COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND UNDER § 20-1407 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL  
 8 ARTICLE.

9 (2) IN EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2025, THE GOVERNOR  
 10 SHALL:

11 (I) TRANSFER \$15,000,000 TO THE HEALTH EQUITY  
 12 RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND; AND

13 (II) INCLUDE THE FUNDS TRANSFERRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
 14 ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AS AN APPROPRIATION  
 15 TO THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND UNDER § 20-1407  
 16 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

17 Article – State Finance and Procurement

18 6-226.

19 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
 20 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
 21 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State  
 22 Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive  
 23 interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of  
 24 the State.

25 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
 26 to the following funds:

27 122. the Racing and Community Development Financing Fund;

28 [and]

29 123. the Racing and Community Development Facilities Fund;

30 AND

31 124. THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY  
 32 RESERVE FUND.

~~Article State Finance and Procurement~~

~~6-226.~~

~~(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.~~

~~(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:~~

~~122. the Racing and Community Development Financing Fund;~~

~~[and]~~

~~123. the Racing and Community Development Facilities Fund;~~

~~AND~~

~~124. THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND.~~

~~Article Tax General~~

~~10-731.~~

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(2) "COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION" MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF A COMMUNITY OR SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF A COMMUNITY AND PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, OR SOCIAL SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY.~~

~~(3) "COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 13-3701 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE.~~

~~(4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.~~

~~(5) "FUND" MEANS THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 20-1407 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE.~~

1           ~~(6) "HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §~~  
2 ~~20-1401 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE.~~

3           ~~(7) "HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY" HAS THE MEANING~~  
4 ~~STATED IN § 20-1401 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE.~~

5           ~~(8) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" HAS THE MEANING~~  
6 ~~STATED IN § 10-101 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.~~

7           ~~(9) "QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE" MEANS A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER,~~  
8 ~~A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED AS AN EVALUATOR~~  
9 ~~UNDER § 20-1405 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE, OR ANY OTHER~~  
10 ~~INDIVIDUAL WHO:~~

11           ~~(i) PROVIDES DIRECT SUPPORT TO A HEALTH CARE~~  
12 ~~PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER; AND~~

13           ~~(ii) EXPANDS ACCESS TO SERVICES IN A HEALTH EQUITY~~  
14 ~~RESOURCE COMMUNITY.~~

15           ~~(10) (i) "QUALIFIED POSITION" MEANS A QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE~~  
16 ~~POSITION THAT:~~

17                   ~~1. PAYS AT LEAST 150% OF THE FEDERAL MINIMUM~~  
18 ~~WAGE;~~

19                   ~~2. IS FULL-TIME AND OF INDEFINITE DURATION;~~

20                   ~~3. IS LOCATED IN A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE~~  
21 ~~COMMUNITY;~~

22                   ~~4. IS NEWLY CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE~~  
23 ~~ESTABLISHMENT OF, OR EXPANSION OF SERVICES IN, A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE~~  
24 ~~COMMUNITY; AND~~

25                   ~~5. IS FILLED.~~

26           ~~(ii) "QUALIFIED POSITION" DOES NOT INCLUDE A POSITION~~  
27 ~~THAT IS FILLED FOR A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS.~~

28           ~~(11) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH.~~



1 ~~(B) A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER~~  
2 ~~WHO PRACTICES HEALTH CARE IN A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY~~  
3 ~~DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 14 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE~~  
4 ~~MAY SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY A REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY~~  
5 ~~FOR INCOME TAX CREDITS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION~~  
6 ~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPROVED APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF AN AREA~~  
7 ~~AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY IF THE INDIVIDUAL:~~

8 ~~(1) DEMONSTRATES COMPETENCY IN CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC, AND~~  
9 ~~HEALTH LITERACY IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY;~~

10 ~~(2) ACCEPTS AND PROVIDES CARE FOR PATIENTS ENROLLED IN THE~~  
11 ~~MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND FOR UNINSURED PATIENTS;~~

12 ~~(3) UNDERGOES TRAINING IN ANTI-RACISM AND CULTURAL~~  
13 ~~COMPETENCE THROUGH A PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY; AND~~

14 ~~(4) MEETS ANY OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY.~~

15 ~~(C) A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION, A NONPROFIT~~  
16 ~~HOSPITAL, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT~~  
17 ~~AGENCY THAT SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY TO ESTABLISH A~~  
18 ~~HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY MAY SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY A~~  
19 ~~REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR INCOME TAX CREDITS~~  
20 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE~~  
21 ~~APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE~~  
22 ~~COMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY~~  
23 ~~HEALTH WORKER WHO:~~

24 ~~(1) IS PRACTICING OR SEEKING TO PRACTICE IN A HEALTH EQUITY~~  
25 ~~RESOURCE COMMUNITY; AND~~

26 ~~(2) SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS~~  
27 ~~SECTION.~~

28 ~~(D) (1) IF THE SECRETARY APPROVES A REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION~~  
29 ~~SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OR (C) OF THIS SECTION, A HEALTH CARE~~  
30 ~~PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST~~  
31 ~~THE STATE INCOME TAX IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 100% OF THE AMOUNT OF THE~~  
32 ~~STATE INCOME TAX EXPECTED TO BE DUE FROM THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER~~  
33 ~~OR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER FROM INCOME DERIVED FROM PRACTICE IN THE~~  
34 ~~HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY, AS CERTIFIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR~~  
35 ~~THE TAXABLE YEAR.~~

~~(2) (i) IN ADDITION TO THE STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION MAY CLAIM A REFUNDABLE CREDIT OF \$10,000 AGAINST THE STATE INCOME TAX FOR HIRING FOR A QUALIFIED POSITION IN THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY, AS CERTIFIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR.~~

~~(H) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDIT PROVIDED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION MAY CREATE ONE OR MORE QUALIFIED POSITIONS DURING ANY 24-MONTH PERIOD.~~

~~(HH) THE CREDIT EARNED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE TAKEN OVER A 24-MONTH PERIOD, WITH 50% OF THE CREDIT AMOUNT ALLOWED EACH YEAR BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH THE CREDIT IS CERTIFIED.~~

~~(IV) IF THE QUALIFIED POSITION IS FILLED FOR A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 24 MONTHS, THE CREDIT SHALL BE RECAPTURED AS FOLLOWS:~~

~~1. THE CREDIT SHALL BE RECOMPUTED AND REDUCED ON A PRORATED BASIS, BASED ON THE PERIOD OF TIME THE POSITION WAS FILLED, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND REPORTED TO THE COMPTROLLER; AND~~

~~2. THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION WHICH RECEIVED THE CREDIT SHALL REPAY ANY AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT THAT MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN REFUNDED TO THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT RECOMPUTED BY THE SECRETARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.~~

~~(3) TO BE CERTIFIED AS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDITS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION MAY APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION THROUGH THE NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, NONPROFIT HOSPITAL, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM THE SECRETARY TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY.~~

~~(4) (i) ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CREDITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS LIMITED BY AVAILABILITY OF BUDGETED FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE, AS DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY.~~

~~(H) CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS, AS DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY IN THE SECRETARY'S SOLE DISCRETION.~~

~~(E) THE SECRETARY SHALL CERTIFY TO THE COMPTROLLER THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CREDITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR EACH HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH CREDIT ASSIGNED TO A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER, OR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, FOR EACH TAXABLE YEAR.~~

~~(F) THE CREDITS ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR A FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR.~~

~~(G) THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMPTROLLER, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~11-104.~~

~~(g) (1) (i) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(ii) "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARTICLE.~~

~~(iii) "OFF-SALE RETAILERS" MEANS RETAIL SELLERS AND OTHER ENTITIES HOLDING A STATE OR LOCAL LICENSE TO SELL PACKAGED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF-SITE CONSUMPTION.~~

~~(iv) "ON-SALE RETAILERS" MEANS RESTAURANTS, BARS, BREWERIES, WINERIES, DISTILLERIES, AND OTHER ENTITIES HOLDING A STATE OR LOCAL LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE OR SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:~~

~~1. FOR CONSUMPTION ON-SITE; OR~~

~~2. TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON-SITE AS CARRY-OUT PRODUCTS FOR CONSUMPTION OFF-SITE.~~

~~(2) The sales and use tax rate for the sale of an alcoholic beverage [as defined in § 5-101 of this article,] is:~~

~~[(1) 9% of the charge for the alcoholic beverage; and]~~

~~(1) 1. FOR SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY OFF-SALE RETAILERS AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2021, 10% OF THE CHARGE FOR THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE;~~

~~2. FOR SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY ON-SALE RETAILERS BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, INCLUSIVE, 9% OF THE CHARGE FOR THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE; AND~~

~~3. FOR SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY ON-SALE RETAILERS AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2023, 10% OF THE CHARGE FOR THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE; AND~~

~~(2) (H) 6% of a charge that is made in connection with the sale of an alcoholic beverage and is stated as a separate item of the consideration and made known to the buyer at the time of sale for:~~

~~(i) 1. any labor or service rendered;~~

~~(ii) 2. any material used; or~~

~~(iii) 3. any property sold.~~

~~(3) 10% OF THE REVENUES GENERATED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE COMMUNITY RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 20-1407 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective through June 30, 2023, and, at the end of June 30, 2023, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.