

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

House Bill 599

(Delegate Kelly)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

---

**Public Health - Long-Term Care Planning**

---

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), by April 1, 2022, to develop and publish materials to assist Maryland residents with long-term care family planning. The materials developed must be consistent with recommendations made in the final report of the Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning. Uncodified language requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), the Department of Disabilities (MDOD), and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), also by April 1, 2022, to update their websites in accordance with recommendations of the task force. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2022.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The materials developed by MDH must (1) meet the requirements for the PLAN NOW Starter Kit described in recommendation four of the 2018 task force report; (2) be consistent with the mock-up PLAN NOW Starter Kit materials; and (3) include contact information, including websites and phone numbers, for organizations that a resident of the State may contact for assistance with long-term care family planning. MDH must make the materials available in English, Spanish, and any other language as

determined necessary and ensure that the materials are understandable to individuals with limited literacy skills.

**Current Law:** Chapters 212 and 213 of 2017 established the Task Force on Long-Term Care Education and Planning to (1) examine the status of long-term care education in the State; (2) consider the options for improving efforts to educate residents of the State about planning for long-term care; and (3) make specified recommendations regarding long-term care education. The task force was charged with making recommendations regarding education methods that would (1) ensure that no Maryland resident reaches the age of 50 without having received complete information about the risk of needing long-term care and the private options available to pay for long-term care and (2) include information about Medicaid, how the program is funded, and who the program is intended to serve. On October 26, 2018, the task force published its [final report](#).

Recommendation four of the final report was to develop and distribute the PLAN NOW Starter Kit. PLAN NOW is an educational pamphlet intended to assist with long-term care family planning. The task force recommended the pamphlet be available in at least English and Spanish, and other languages as needed, and be available in hard copy or online.

Recommendation five of the final report was to revamp and streamline State long-term care planning information available to residents in the State. The task force noted that State agency websites do not include enough information to educate families about long-term care planning and should be updated, streamlined, and complementary to one another. The task force specifically recommended that MDOD, Maryland Access Point (under MDOA), and MHCC websites be updated.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 690 of 2020 passed the Senate and received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 652 (Senator Klausmeier) - Finance.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2021  
rh/jc Third Reader - February 24, 2021  
Enrolled - April 13, 2021  
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 13, 2021

---

Analysis by: Amberly Holcomb

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510