

HOUSE BILL 378

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2lr1571

By: **Delegate Kerr**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission – Palliative Care Services – Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to convene a
4 workgroup to study palliative care services and make recommendations to improve
5 palliative care services; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Care
6 Commission and palliative care services.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8 That:

9 (a) (1) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall convene a workgroup of
10 interested stakeholders to study palliative care services and make recommendations to
11 improve palliative care services in the State.

12 (2) The workgroup convened under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
13 include representatives of:

14 (i) hospice and palliative care providers;

15 (ii) health care facilities;

16 (iii) patient advocacy groups; and

17 (iv) health insurers.

18 (b) The workgroup shall examine:

19 (1) the state of palliative care services offered in the State;

20 (2) the capacity of palliative care providers to provide services;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) any geographic areas where significant gaps in palliative care services
2 may exist;

3 (4) opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders who are positioned
4 to develop a strategy or plan for improving and expanding the provision of high-quality
5 palliative medicine and care services;

6 (5) the feasibility of financial support for a long-term expansion of
7 palliative care services, including insurance coverage;

8 (6) a plan for ongoing data collection for purposes of the monitoring and
9 improvement of palliative care services;

10 (7) engagement strategies for educating the public about palliative care to
11 empower individuals to make informed decisions about an individual's preferred care when
12 faced with serious illness; and

13 (8) any other strategies that would improve palliative care services.

14 (c) (1) On or before July 1, 2023, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall
15 submit an interim report of the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, including
16 the need for any legislative initiatives, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of
17 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

18 (2) On or before November 1, 2023, the Maryland Health Care Commission
19 shall submit a final report of the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, including
20 the need for any legislative initiatives, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of
21 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September
24 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.