

# HOUSE BILL 668

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By: **Delegate Lisanti**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Removal of Health Officer**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a process through which a county's Senate Delegation and  
4 House Delegation to the General Assembly may vote to support or oppose the  
5 removal of the health officer of the county; requiring that a meeting of a delegation  
6 related to the removal of a health officer be closed; and generally relating to the  
7 removal of a health officer.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Health – General  
10 Section 3–302(g)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Health – General**

16 3–302.

17 (g) (1) **[The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
18 health officer for a county may be removed from office with the concurrence of the governing  
19 body of that county and the Secretary.

20 (2) (i) Any information concerning the removal of a health officer from  
21 office is confidential in accordance with Title 4 of the General Provisions Article.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) Any meeting of the governing body of a county or any meeting  
2 that includes the Secretary related to the removal of a health officer from office shall be  
3 closed.

4 (3) (I) AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE  
5 GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY AND THE SECRETARY CONCUR TO REMOVE A  
6 HEALTH OFFICER FROM OFFICE, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY SHALL  
7 PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE HEALTH OFFICER'S REMOVAL TO THE  
8 COUNTY'S SENATE DELEGATION AND HOUSE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY.

10 (II) IF A COUNTY'S SENATE DELEGATION AND HOUSE  
11 DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECEIVES NOTICE UNDER  
12 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE SENATE DELEGATION AND THE  
13 HOUSE DELEGATION MAY VOTE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE  
14 THE REMOVAL OF THE HEALTH OFFICER AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE HEALTH  
15 OFFICER IS REMOVED.

16 (III) THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE OR  
17 PROHIBIT THE REMOVAL OF A HEALTH OFFICER BASED ON THE VOTE BY A COUNTY'S  
18 SENATE DELEGATION OR HOUSE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
19 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

20 (IV) ANY MEETING OF A COUNTY'S SENATE DELEGATION OR  
21 HOUSE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATED TO THE REMOVAL OF  
22 A HEALTH OFFICER FROM OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL  
23 BE CLOSED.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2022.