

SENATE BILL 607

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CF 2lr2316

By: **Senators Hayes, Feldman, Guzzone, Griffith, and Kelley**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Equity Resource Communities – Modifications**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our
4 Patients (CRISP) to provide technical assistance to the Community Health
5 Resources Commission in implementing provisions of law governing Health Equity
6 Resource Communities; altering the date by which the Commission must issue a
7 request for proposals to designate areas as Health Equity Resource Communities;
8 establishing that the Health Equity Resource Fund may be used to fund a certain
9 number of staffing positions at the Commission in a certain year and to pay for costs
10 incurred by CRISP in providing the technical assistance in certain fiscal years; and
11 generally relating to Health Equity Resource Communities.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 20–1402(a) and 20–1407(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Health – General
19 Section 20–1402(b)(2)(i), 20–1405(a)(1), and 20–1407(f)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Health – General**

25 20–1402.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) The purpose of establishing Health Equity Resource Communities is to target
2 State resources to specific areas of the State to:

3 (1) Reduce health disparities;

4 (2) Improve health outcomes;

5 (3) Improve access to primary care;

6 (4) Promote primary and secondary prevention services; and

7 (5) Reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions.

8 (b) (2) (i) The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities **AND THE**
9 **CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS (CRISP)** shall
10 provide technical assistance to the Commission in implementing the provisions of this
11 subtitle.

12 20–1405.

13 (a) (1) On or before October 1, **[2022] 2023**, the Commission shall issue a
14 request for proposals to designate areas as Health Equity Resource Communities in
15 accordance with this subtitle.

16 20–1407.

17 (a) There is a Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund.

18 (f) **(1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
19 **SUBSECTION, THE** Fund may be used only to provide funding to the Commission for the
20 support of areas designated as Health Equity Resource Communities by providing grants
21 to community–based organizations, nonprofit hospitals, institutions of higher education,
22 local government agencies, health care practitioners, federally qualified health centers, and
23 community health workers to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, provide
24 addiction and mental health services, and reduce health costs and hospital admissions and
25 readmissions.

26 **(2) (I) IN 2022, THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF**
27 **FUNDING TWO FULL–TIME STAFF POSITIONS ON THE COMMISSION.**

28 **(II) IN FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025, THE FUND MAY BE USED**
29 **TO PAY FOR THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL INFORMATION**
30 **SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS (CRISP) IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO**
31 **THE COMMISSION.**

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July

1 1, 2022.