

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 984  
Finance

(Senator Klausmeier)

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**Public Health – State Designated Exchange – Health Data Utility**

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This bill requires the State-designated exchange to operate as a health data utility for the State and provide data, as allowed by law, to individuals and organizations involved in the treatment and care coordination of patients and to public health officials to support public health goals. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH), nursing homes, electronic health networks (EHNs), and “dispensers” (a person authorized by law to dispense a prescription drug to a patient or the patient’s agent in the State) must provide data to the State-designated exchange. After dispensing a prescription drug, a dispenser must submit prescription information to the State-designed exchange. The State-designated exchange may not impose any fees or other assessments on dispensers to support the operation of the exchange. The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) must adopt specified regulations. By January 1, 2024, MDH, MHCC, and the State-designated exchange must submit a report to the General Assembly that identifies ongoing revenue sources to fund the activities under the bill.

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**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:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

### Bill Summary:

#### *Health Data Utility*

The purposes of the health data utility include the (1) collection, aggregation, and analysis of clinical information, public health data, and health administrative and operations data to assist health care and public health leaders in the evaluation of public health interventions and health equity; (2) communication of data from public health officials and health care providers to advance disease control and health equity; and (3) enhancement and acceleration of the interoperability of health information throughout the State.

#### *Prescription Information*

After dispensing a prescription drug, a dispenser must submit prescription information to the State-designed exchange (1) by electronic means; (2) without unduly increasing the workload and expense on a dispenser; (3) in a manner as compatible as possible with existing data practices, including technology software of dispensers; and (4) as otherwise required by MHCC regulations. The State-designated exchange must make prescription data available for purposes of treatment and care coordination of a patient. The purpose of these provisions is to authorize individuals and organizations involved in the treatment and care coordination of patients to access a patient's medication history, and assist health care providers, care managers, and public health officials to understand and promote matters of health equity and treatment efficacy.

#### *Provision of Data by State-designated Exchange*

The State-designated exchange must provide data, as allowed by law, to individuals and organizations, as specified, that may include (1) understanding and promoting the equitable availability to patients of prescription medications, including the treatment of infectious disease; (2) assisting health care providers, care managers, and public health officials in identifying opportunities to use treatments more effectively, including for the stewardship of antibiotic medications; and any additional patient interventions and activities, including case investigation.

#### *Maryland Health Care Commission Regulations*

MHCC, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, must adopt regulations, including (1) the specific data required to be provided; (2) the specific prescription information required to be submitted; (3) the timeframe for submitting required prescription information; (4) the electronic means and manner by which prescription

information is to be submitted; and (5) prescription information submission requirements that align with the data submission requirements of monitored prescription drugs under the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

**Current Law:** MHCC designated the Chesapeake Regional Information System for Our Patients (CRISP) as the statewide health information exchange (HIE) in 2009, and the infrastructure became operational in 2010. An HIE allows clinical information to move electronically among disparate health information systems. CRISP offers tools aimed at improving the facilitation of care for the region's health care providers.

Under Maryland regulations (COMAR 10.37.07.03), each hospital under the jurisdiction of the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) must electronically connect to the State-designated HIE to enable HSCRC to fully measure hospital-specific performance.

Pursuant to Chapters 790 and 791 of 2021, a nursing home, on request of MDH, must electronically submit clinical information to the State-designated exchange. An EHN means an entity (1) involved in the exchange of electronic health care transactions between a payor, health care provider, vendor, and any other entity and (2) certified by MHCC. An EHN must provide electronic health care transactions to the exchange for the following public health and clinical purposes: (1) a State health improvement program; (2) mitigation of a public health emergency; and (3) improvement of patient safety. An EHN may not charge a fee to a health care provider, health care payor, or State-designated exchange for providing the required information.

MHCC must adopt regulations for the privacy and security of protected health information obtained or released through an HIE that (1) govern the access, use, maintenance, disclosure, and redisclosure of protected health information; (2) include protections for secondary use of protected health information obtained or released through an HIE; (3) require the State-designated HIE to develop and maintain a consent management application; and (4) provide penalties for noncompliance with the regulations. Consumers can opt out of having their information included in an HIE through an online application, via telephone, or by mailing a form.

Consumers can opt out of all sharing of their electronic health information (EHI), including research, or opt out of research only (to prevent approved researchers from receiving sets of data that include the consumer's EHI). Maryland law does not allow a consumer to opt out of public health reporting, such as the reporting of specific diseases to public health officials, or to opt out of sharing information about controlled dangerous substances (CDS) prescriptions to PDMP.

## *Prescription Drug Monitoring Program*

Chapter 166 of 2011 established PDMP to assist with the identification and prevention of prescription drug abuse and the identification and investigation of unlawful prescription drug diversion. PDMP must monitor the prescribing and dispensing of Schedule II through V CDS. As of July 1, 2017, all CDS dispensers are required to register with PDMP.

Under the Health Occupations Article, an “authorized prescriber” means any licensed dentist, licensed dental hygienist, licensed physician, licensed podiatrist, advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority, or other individual authorized by law to prescribe prescription or nonprescription drugs or devices.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1127 (Delegate Pendergrass) - Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 8, 2022  
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