

HB0318/373025/1

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 318

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “**Delegate Bagnall**” and substitute “**Delegates Bagnall, Pena-Melnyk, Cullison, Alston, Bhandari, Chisholm, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, R. Lewis, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Rosenberg, Taveras, White, and Woods**”; in line 3, strike “**Wages**” and substitute “**Wage Reports**”; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 4 down through “aides;” in line 8; in line 8, strike “cost”; in the same line, after “the” insert “**Maryland**”; and in line 9, after “Department” insert “**of Labor regarding wage rates for personal care aides; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to work with stakeholders to update a certain report regarding reimbursement rates and develop a certain plan regarding gaps in certain reimbursement rates**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike beginning with “**ON**” in line 13 down through “**(E)**” in line 30; in line 31, after “**THE**” insert “**MARYLAND**”; in the same line, after “**DEPARTMENT**” insert “**OF LABOR**”; in the same line, strike “**COST**”; in line 32, after the second “**THE**” insert “**MARYLAND**”; and in the same line, after “**DEPARTMENT**” insert “**OF LABOR**”.

On page 3, in lines 1 and 12, in each instance, strike “**COST**”; in line 4, strike “**COMPLIANCE WITH THE**” and substitute “**AVERAGE**”; strike beginning with “**REQUIREMENTS**” in line 4 down through “**SECTION;**” in line 5 and substitute “**RATE FOR PERSONAL CARE AIDES; AND**”; strike in their entirety lines 6 through 9, inclusive; in line 10, strike “**(III)**” and substitute “**(II)**”; in the same line, after “**THE**” insert “**MARYLAND**”; in the same line, after “**DEPARTMENT**” insert “**OF LABOR**”; in line 14, strike “**UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY**”; strike in their entirety lines 15 through 28, inclusive, and substitute:

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“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Health shall work with affected stakeholders to:

(1) update the report submitted by the Department under Section 2 of Chapter 798 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018 comparing the rate of reimbursement versus the actual cost to provide personal assistance services to individuals under the Community First Choice, Community Options, Community Personal Assistance Services, and any other home and community-based services administered by the Department;

(2) develop a plan to close any identified differential gap in reimbursement rates; and

(3) while developing the plan under item (2) of this subsection, determine the amount of any adjustment needed in reimbursement rates to increase wages and benefits to personal care aides.

(b) In developing the plan under subsection (a)(2) of this section, the Maryland Department of Health shall consider the wages and benefits paid to personal care aides or similar workers in other states or in other health care settings.

(c) On or before September 30, 2024, the Maryland Department of Health shall submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislative or regulatory changes, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.”;

in line 29, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in line 30, strike “October” and substitute “July”.