

HOUSE BILL 370

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4lr1648

By: **Delegate Vogel**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Study on the Effects of and Preparedness for**
3 **Long COVID–19**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the
5 Maryland Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services, to conduct
6 a study on the preparedness of health facilities in the State to respond to viral
7 illnesses and the effects of post–viral illnesses resulting from long COVID–19; and
8 generally relating to a study related to long COVID–19.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) (1) In this section, “long COVID–19” means signs, symptoms, or conditions
12 that continue to develop after initial SARS–CoV–2 infection.

13 (2) “Long COVID–19” includes symptoms that:

14 (i) present with a relapsing–remitting pattern and progress or
15 worsen over time; and

16 (ii) may present the possibility of life–threatening events months or
17 years after initial infection.

18 (b) The Maryland Department of Health, in conjunction with the Maryland
19 Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services, shall conduct a study on the
20 preparedness of health facilities in the State to respond to viral illnesses and the effects of
21 post–viral illnesses resulting from long COVID–19.

22 (c) The study shall include:

23 (1) information on:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) preparedness of individual public health facilities to respond to
2 long COVID-19;

3 (ii) the financial security of individuals affected by long COVID-19
4 and the cost to the State of treating these individuals; and

5 (iii) health data trends on demographic groups or geographic areas
6 that experience the highest levels of long COVID-19; and

7 (2) suggested best practices for:

8 (i) increasing the preparedness of health facilities to treat
9 long-COVID-19-related symptoms and conditions; and

10 (ii) treatment protocols for the mental, physical, and behavioral
11 effects of long COVID-19.

12 (d) On or before July 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation
13 with the Maryland Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services, shall
14 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House
15 Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
16 Government Article.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2024.