

HOUSE BILL 871

J3

5lr2372

By: Delegates Bagnall, Cullison, Hill, ~~and Pena-Melnyk~~ Pena-Melnyk, Alston, Bhandari, Chisholm, Guzzone, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Szeliga, Taveras, Woods, Woorman, and Ross

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Services Cost Review Commission – Community Benefits – Community**
3 **Health Worker Workforce Program**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “community benefit” to include a certain
5 community health worker workforce program; authorizing a nonprofit hospital and
6 a community-based organization to establish through a memorandum of
7 understanding a community health worker workforce program to provide a
8 community benefit; establishing requirements for the memorandum of
9 understanding; ~~requiring~~ authorizing a partnership that establishes a community
10 health worker workforce program to provide health insurance to certain individuals
11 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to community health worker
12 workforce programs.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Health – General
15 Section 13–3701(a) and (c)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Health – General
20 Section 19–303(a)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

3 BY adding to
4 Article – Health – General
5 Section 19–303.1
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Health – General**

11 13–3701.

12 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

13 (c) “Community health worker” means a frontline public health worker who:

14 (1) Is a trusted member of, or has an unusually close understanding of, the
15 community being served;

16 (2) Serves as a liaison to, link to, or intermediary between health and social
17 services and the community to:

18 (i) Facilitate access to services; and

19 (ii) Improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery;
20 and

21 (3) Builds individual and community capacity by increasing health
22 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities, including:

23 (i) Outreach;

24 (ii) Community education;

25 (iii) The provision of information to support individuals in the
26 community;

27 (iv) Social support; and

28 (v) Advocacy.

29 19–303.

1 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (2) “Commission” means the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

3 (3) (i) “Community benefit” means a planned, organized, and measured
4 activity that is intended to meet identified community health needs within a service area.

5 (ii) “Community benefit” may include:

6 1. A community health service;

7 2. Health professional education;

8 3. Research;

9 4. A financial contribution;

10 5. A community–building activity, including partnerships
11 with community–based organizations;

12 6. Charity care;

13 7. An activity described under subparagraph (i) of this
14 paragraph that is funded by a foundation;

15 8. A mission–driven health service;

16 9. An operation related to an activity described under
17 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; [and]

18 10. Financial or in–kind support of the Maryland Behavioral
19 Health Crisis Response System; AND

20 **11. A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE**
21 **PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19–303.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

22 (4) “Community Benefit Reporting Workgroup” means the Community
23 Benefit Reporting Workgroup established in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

24 (5) “Community health needs assessment” means the process required by
25 the Affordable Care Act by which unmet community health care needs and priorities are
26 identified by a nonprofit hospital in accordance with § 501(r)(3) of the Internal Revenue
27 Code.

28 **19–303.1.**

1 4. PROVIDING EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH
2 INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.

3 (D) A PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION ~~SHALL~~ MAY
4 PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EACH COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER
5 FOR THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT HAVE HEALTH
6 INSURANCE COVERAGE AND REQUESTS COVERAGE.

7 (E) A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL AND A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION
8 MAY COLLABORATE TO IDENTIFY FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS COSTS
9 ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY WITHIN THE
10 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
11 PARTNERSHIP.

12 (F) SUBJECT TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW GOVERNING COMMUNITY
13 BENEFITS AND ON THE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES, A NONPROFIT HOSPITAL MAY
14 PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION TO COVER
15 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY WITHIN THE
16 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
17 PARTNERSHIP.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.