

HOUSE BILL 1243

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By: **Delegate Howard**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation
4 Program; and generally relating to the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation
5 Program.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Health – General

8 Section 13–4401 through 13–4405 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 44. Rural
9 Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program”

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 **SUBTITLE 44. RURAL NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.**

16 **13–4401.**

17 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (B) “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

20 (1) DOES NOT QUALIFY TO RECEIVE STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING
21 FOR TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO RECEIVING MEDICAL SERVICES BECAUSE THE
22 INDIVIDUAL:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (I) RESIDES IN A LOCATION THAT DISQUALIFIES THE
2 INDIVIDUAL FROM QUALIFYING FOR THE FUNDING;

3 (II) OWNS A CAR;

4 (III) RECEIVED TRANSPORTATION FROM A VOLUNTEER, BUT
5 THE INDIVIDUAL NO LONGER HAS ACCESS TO THAT TRANSPORTATION;

6 (IV) HAD A MEDICAL PROCEDURE THAT DOES NOT QUALIFY THE
7 INDIVIDUAL FOR THE FUNDING;

8 (V) HAS A TEMPORARY DISABILITY THAT DOES NOT QUALIFY
9 THE INDIVIDUAL FOR THE FUNDING; OR

10 (VI) DOES NOT LIVE WITHIN THE REQUIRED DISTANCE OF A
11 PUBLIC BUS STOP TO QUALIFY THE INDIVIDUAL FOR THE FUNDING;

12 (2) NEEDS TRANSPORTATION TO OR FROM MEDICAL SERVICES
13 WHERE EACH TRIP EITHER BEGINS OR ENDS IN A RURAL COUNTY; AND

14 (3) A HOSPITAL CARE COORDINATOR DETERMINES HAS A MEDICAL
15 NEED FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL REQUIRES TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
16 THROUGH THE PROGRAM.

17 (C) "HOSPITAL" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 19-301 OF THIS ARTICLE.

18 (D) "HOSPITAL CARE COORDINATOR" MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A HOSPITAL
19 WHO COORDINATES TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO MEDICAL SERVICES FOR
20 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (E) "NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

22 (1) IS:

23 (I) DESCRIBED IN § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE
24 CODE; AND

25 (II) EXEMPT FROM INCOME TAX UNDER § 501(A) OF THE
26 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; AND

27 (2) PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE
28 INDIVIDUALS THROUGH A PROGRAM ADOPTED BY A HOSPITAL.

1 (F) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE RURAL NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL
2 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

3 (G) "RURAL COUNTY" MEANS:

4 (1) ALLEGANY COUNTY;

5 (2) CALVERT COUNTY;

6 (3) CAROLINE COUNTY;

7 (4) CARROLL COUNTY;

8 (5) CECIL COUNTY;

9 (6) CHARLES COUNTY;

10 (7) DORCHESTER COUNTY;

11 (8) FREDERICK COUNTY;

12 (9) GARRETT COUNTY;

13 (10) HARFORD COUNTY;

14 (11) KENT COUNTY;

15 (12) QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY;

16 (13) SOMERSET COUNTY;

17 (14) ST. MARY'S COUNTY;

18 (15) TALBOT COUNTY;

19 (16) WASHINGTON COUNTY;

20 (17) WICOMICO COUNTY; OR

21 (18) WORCESTER COUNTY.

22 13-4402.

1 **(A) THERE IS A RURAL NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS FOR HOSPITALS TO COORDINATE**
4 **TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO OR FROM**
5 **MEDICAL SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**

6 **13-4403.**

7 **(A) A PROGRAM ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL:**

8 **(1) COORDINATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY A NONPROFIT**
9 **ORGANIZATION FOR AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO TRAVEL TO OR FROM MEDICAL**
10 **SERVICES;**

11 **(2) INCLUDE A MONTHLY BUDGET SET BY EACH NONPROFIT**
12 **ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATING IN A PROGRAM ADOPTED BY A HOSPITAL**
13 **ESTABLISHING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THE**
14 **ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PATIENTS AT**
15 **THE HOSPITAL THROUGH THE PROGRAM; AND**

16 **(3) PROVIDE INFORMATION TO A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ABOUT**
17 **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS THAT THE CARE COORDINATOR HAS SELECTED TO RECEIVE**
18 **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THROUGH THE PROGRAM IN A MANNER THAT**
19 **COMPLIES WITH STATE AND FEDERAL PRIVACY LAWS.**

20 **(B) A PROGRAM MAY NOT PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION:**

21 **(1) TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL FOR MORE THAN 120 DAYS AT A**
22 **TIME; OR**

23 **(2) TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REQUESTS TRANSPORTATION BUT DOES**
24 **NOT USE THE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION.**

25 **13-4404.**

26 **(A) A HOSPITAL MAY ADOPT A PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS**
27 **SUBTITLE.**

28 **(B) IF A HOSPITAL ADOPTS A PROGRAM, THE HOSPITAL SHALL:**

1 **(1) CONTRACT WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE**
2 **TRANSPORTATION TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PATIENTS AT THE HOSPITAL**
3 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

4 **(2) ESTABLISH AND ADOPT A PROCESS OF NOTIFYING PATIENTS AT**
5 **THE HOSPITAL ABOUT SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PROGRAM.**

6 **(C) A HOSPITAL CARE COORDINATOR SHALL:**

7 **(1) DETERMINE WHICH PATIENTS OF THE HOSPITAL WHO ARE**
8 **INTERESTED IN RECEIVING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THROUGH THE PROGRAM**
9 **ARE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS;**

10 **(2) DETERMINE WHICH ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WILL RECEIVE**
11 **TRANSPORTATION THROUGH THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET**
12 **PROVIDED BY THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION; AND**

13 **(3) COORDINATE TRANSPORTATION FOR AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL**
14 **WHO THE HOSPITAL CARE COORDINATOR SELECTS TO RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION**
15 **TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM RECEIVING MEDICAL SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
16 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

17 **(D) IF A HOSPITAL ENTERS INTO A CONTRACT WITH A NONPROFIT**
18 **ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION THROUGH**
19 **THE PROGRAM, A HOSPITAL SHALL REPORT THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION**
20 **OF THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER**
21 **THE DATE ON WHICH THE CONTRACT IS SIGNED.**

22 **13-4405.**

23 **(A) IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
24 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
25 **AT LEAST \$1,000,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT**
26 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

27 **(B) EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS**
28 **APPROPRIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION:**

29 **(1) TO EACH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES SERVICES**
30 **THROUGH THE PROGRAM, AS REPORTED UNDER § 13-4404(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE;**
31 **AND**

1 **(2) IN AN AMOUNT PROPORTIONAL TO THE NONPROFIT**
2 **ORGANIZATION'S ESTIMATED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION**
3 **UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2022.