

HOUSE BILL 823

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By: **Delegates Cullison, Carr, Ebersole, Feldmark, Ivey, Lehman, J. Lewis, Lopez, Luedtke, Moon, Shetty, Turner, Valentino-Smith, C. Watson, R. Watson, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Effective Professional Development Programs in Local Health**
3 **Departments**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health to convene a workgroup to develop
5 certain professional development programs for certain staff in local health
6 departments; providing for the composition of the workgroup; requiring the
7 workgroup to solicit certain feedback, develop certain programs, and identify certain
8 individuals; authorizing a certain program to include certain requirements;
9 requiring, to the extent practicable, certain programs to provide certain continuing
10 education credits for certain health care providers; requiring the workgroup to report
11 certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly
12 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act, and generally
13 relating to a workgroup to develop effective professional development programs in
14 local health departments.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

16 That:

17 (a) The Secretary of Health shall convene a workgroup to develop effective
18 professional development programs for staff in local health departments.

19 (b) The workgroup convened under subsection (a) of this section shall include
20 representatives from the Maryland Department of Health and health care providers from
21 at least five local health departments.

22 (c) The workgroup shall:

23 (1) solicit feedback about professional development needs from staff at
24 local health departments;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) develop a preceptorship program for health care providers employed in
2 local health departments;

3 (3) develop a training program for the staff, other than health care
4 providers, of each program or service offered by a local health department; and

5 (4) for each local health department, identify the individual who will be
6 charged with:

7 (i) establishing, coordinating, assessing, and providing quality
8 assurance for the programs developed under items (2) and (3) of this subsection; and

9 (ii) monitoring compliance with the programs developed under items
10 (2) and (3) of this subsection.

11 (d) The preceptorship program developed under subsection (c)(2) of this section
12 may require, for a health care provider at a local health department:

13 (1) access to a preceptor who is available to the health care provider at all
14 times;

15 (2) one-on-one instruction with the preceptor;

16 (3) participation in the preceptorship program for 3 months to 6 months
17 after an initial hiring and at least 2 weeks after a transfer to a different unit in the local
18 health department;

19 (4) demonstration of skills that are unique to the local health department;

20 (5) demonstration of a minimum level of competency prior to working
21 directly with patients or clients of the local health department; and

22 (6) any other requirements recommended by the workgroup.

23 (e) To the extent practicable, the programs developed under subsection (c) of this
24 section shall provide continuing education credits to health care providers licensed in
25 accordance with the Health Occupations Article.

26 (f) On or before December 1, 2019, the workgroup shall report its findings and
27 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
28 Government Article, the General Assembly.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2020, this
31 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
32 further force and effect.