

SENATE BILL 614

J1, J3

9lr1262

By: **Senators Nathan–Pulliam, Augustine, Benson, Patterson, Washington, West, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Facilities – Blood Pressure Screening**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health care facilities to screen for hypertension each
4 patient receiving health care services from the health care facility; requiring that the
5 screening consist of at least one certain screening test; requiring a health care
6 provider who obtains a certain result on a certain screening to provide a certain
7 referral for treatment and services; defining a certain term; and generally relating
8 to blood pressure screening.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Health – General

11 Section 19–2601 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 26. Blood Pressure Screening”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, The goal of this Act is to reduce the number of individuals untreated
16 high blood pressure that leads to strokes and other cardiovascular diseases and deaths; and

17 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest percentage of high blood pressure
18 that results in stroke or other cardiovascular diseases and deaths, as well as damage to the
19 kidneys, which result in being placed on dialysis; now, therefore,

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

21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



SUBTITLE 26. BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING.**19-2601.****(A) IN THIS SECTION, "HEALTH CARE FACILITY" MEANS:****(1) A HOSPITAL, AS DEFINED IN § 19-301 OF THIS TITLE;****(2) A LIMITED SERVICE HOSPITAL, AS DEFINED IN § 19-301 OF THIS TITLE;****(3) A FREESTANDING AMBULATORY CARE FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN § 19-3B-01 OF THIS TITLE; OR****(4) A FACILITY OFFERING PRIMARY OR SPECIALTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.****(B) (1) EACH HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL SCREEN FOR HYPERTENSION EACH PATIENT RECEIVING HEALTH CARE SERVICES FROM THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.****(2) THE SCREENING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SCREENING TESTS:****(I) OFFICE BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT;****(II) AMBULATORY BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING;****(III) HOME BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING; OR****(IV) ANY OTHER BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TEST APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY.****(C) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO OBTAINS A RESULT FROM A SCREENING FOR HYPERTENSION CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE A REFERRAL FOR TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES IF RESULTS INDICATE ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE.****SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.**