

Chapter 301

(House Bill 378)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Health Care Commission – Palliative Care Services – Workgroup

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to convene a workgroup to study palliative care services and make recommendations to improve palliative care services; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Care Commission and palliative care services.

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

(a) (1) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall convene a workgroup of interested stakeholders to study palliative care services and make recommendations to improve palliative care services in the State.

(2) The workgroup convened under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include representatives of:

- (i) hospice and palliative care providers;
- (ii) health care facilities;
- (iii) patient advocacy groups; and
- (iv) health insurers.

(b) The workgroup shall examine:

- (1) the state of palliative care services offered in the State;
- (2) the capacity of palliative care providers to provide services;
- (3) any geographic areas where significant gaps in palliative care services may exist;
- (4) opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders who are positioned to develop a strategy or plan for improving and expanding the provision of high-quality palliative medicine and care services;
- (5) the feasibility of financial support for a long-term expansion of palliative care services, including insurance coverage;

(6) a plan for ongoing data collection for purposes of the monitoring and improvement of palliative care services;

(7) engagement strategies for educating the public about palliative care to empower individuals to make informed decisions about an individual's preferred care when faced with serious illness; and

(8) any other strategies that would improve palliative care services.

(c) (1) On or before July 1, 2023, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall submit an interim report of the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, including the need for any legislative initiatives, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(2) On or before November 1, 2023, the Maryland Health Care Commission shall submit a final report of the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, including the need for any legislative initiatives, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2022.