

HOUSE BILL 549

K3

3lr0135
CF 3lr0134

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Acevero, Addison, Allen, Amprey, Bagnall, Bhandari, Bofo, Boyce, Charkoudian, Charles, Conaway, Cullison, Davis, Ebersole, Edelson, Embry, Feldmark, Fennell, Foley, Fraser–Hidalgo, Harris, Harrison, Healey, Henson, Holmes, Ivey, Jackson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, Kelly, Kerr, J. Long, Lopez, Love, McCaskill, Mireku–North, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Queen, Reznik, Rogers, Rosenberg, Ruth, Shetty, Simpson, Smith, Solomon, Stewart, Taveras, Toles, Turner, Valderrama, Vogel, Wells, White, Wilkins, Williams, Woods, Wu, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2023

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fair Wage Act of 2023**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the State minimum wage rate in effect for certain periods of
4 time; increasing, except under certain circumstances, the State minimum wage rate
5 in effect for certain periods of time based on annual growth in a certain consumer
6 price index; altering the authority of the Board of Public Works to temporarily
7 suspend an increase in the minimum wage rate; repealing the requirement that the
8 Governor’s budgets for certain fiscal years include certain provider rate increases;
9 and generally relating to the State minimum wage rate.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 7–307, 16–201.3, and 16–201.4
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Labor and Employment
17 Section 3–413 and 3–413.1
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2 **Article – Health – General**

3 7–307.

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

5 (2) “Community direct service worker” means an employee of a community
6 provider that provides treatment or services to developmentally disabled individuals.

7 (3) “Community provider” means a community–based agency or program
8 funded by the Administration to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

9 (4) “Rate” means the reimbursement rate paid by the Department to a
10 community provider from the State General Fund, Maryland Medical Assistance Program
11 funds, other State or federal funds, or a combination of funds.

12 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this title or any other provision of law, the
13 Department shall reimburse community providers as provided in this section.

14 (c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Department shall increase the rate
15 of reimbursement for community service providers each fiscal year by the amount of rate
16 increase included in the State budget for that fiscal year.

17 (d) (1) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 shall include a
18 3.5% rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the
19 legislative appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02
20 Community Services for fiscal year 2018.

21 (2) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 shall include a 4%
22 rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the legislative
23 appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02 Community
24 Services for fiscal year 2020.

25 (3) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 shall include a 4%
26 rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the legislative
27 appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02 Community
28 Services for fiscal year 2021.

29 (4) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 shall include a 4%
30 rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the legislative
31 appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02 Community
32 Services for fiscal year 2022.

33 (5) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 shall include a 4%
34 rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the legislative

1 appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02 Community
2 Services for fiscal year 2023.

3 [(6) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 shall include a 4%
4 rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the legislative
5 appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02 Community
6 Services for fiscal year 2024.

7 (7) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 shall include a 4%
8 rate increase for community service providers over the funding provided in the legislative
9 appropriation for Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00M01.02 Community
10 Services for fiscal year 2025.]

11 (e) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 and thereafter for
12 community service providers shall be presented in the same manner, including object and
13 program information, as provided for in the fiscal year 2015 budget.

14 (f) A portion of the funds in subsection (e) of this section may be allocated to
15 address the impact of an increase in the State minimum wage on wages and benefits of
16 direct support workers employed by community providers licensed by the Developmental
17 Disabilities Administration.

18 16–201.3.

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

20 (2) "Community provider" means a community-based agency or program
21 funded by the Behavioral Health Administration or the Medical Care Programs
22 Administration to serve individuals with mental disorders, substance-related disorders, or
23 a combination of these disorders.

24 (3) "Rate" means the reimbursement rate paid by the Department to a
25 community provider from the State General Fund, Maryland Medical Assistance Program
26 funds, other State or federal funds, or a combination of these funds.

27 (b) This section does not apply to reimbursement for any service provided by a
28 community provider whose rates are regulated by the Health Services Cost Review
29 Commission.

30 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that a substantial portion of the rate
31 adjustment provided under subsection (d) of this section be used to:

32 (1) Compensate direct care staff and licensed clinicians employed by
33 community providers; and

34 (2) Improve the quality of programming provided by community providers.

1 (d) (1) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year
2 2020 shall include a 3.5% rate increase for community providers over the funding provided
3 in the legislative appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the
4 following:

5 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
6 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

7 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
8 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

9 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
10 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
11 Administration.

12 (2) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 shall include a 4%
13 rate increase for community providers over the funding provided in the legislative
14 appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the following:

15 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
16 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

17 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
18 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

19 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
20 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
21 Administration.

22 (3) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 shall include a
23 3.5% rate increase for community providers over the funding provided in the legislative
24 appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the following:

25 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
26 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

27 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
28 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

29 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
30 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
31 Administration.

32 (4) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 shall include a
33 3.25% rate increase for community providers over the funding provided in the legislative
34 appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the following:

1 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
2 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

3 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
4 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

5 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
6 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
7 Administration.

8 (5) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 shall include a 3%
9 rate increase for community providers over the funding provided in the legislative
10 appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the following:

11 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
12 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

13 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
14 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

15 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
16 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
17 Administration.

18 (6) [The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 shall include a 4%
19 rate increase for community providers over the funding provided in the legislative
20 appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the following:

21 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
22 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

23 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
24 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

25 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
26 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
27 Administration.

28 (7) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 shall include a 4%
29 rate increase for community providers over the funding provided in the legislative
30 appropriation for the immediately preceding fiscal year for each of the following:

31 (i) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00Q01.10 Medicaid
32 Behavioral Health Provider Reimbursement – Medical Care Programs Administration;

33 (ii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.02
34 Community Services – Behavioral Health Administration; and

1 (iii) Object 08 Contractual Services in Program M00L01.03
2 Community Services for Medicaid State Fund Recipients – Behavioral Health
3 Administration.

4 (8) The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year
5 thereafter for community providers shall be presented in the same manner, including object
6 and program information, as in the fiscal year 2018 budget.

7 (e) (1) The Behavioral Health Administration and the Medical Care Programs
8 Administration jointly shall:

9 (i) Conduct an independent cost–driven, rate–setting study to set
10 community provider rates for community–based behavioral health services that includes a
11 rate analysis and an impact study that considers the actual cost of providing
12 community–based behavioral health services;

13 (ii) Develop and implement a payment system incorporating the
14 findings of the rate–setting study conducted under item (i) of this paragraph, including
15 projected costs of implementation and recommendations to address any potential shortfall
16 in funding; and

17 (iii) Consult with stakeholders, including community providers and
18 individuals receiving services, in conducting the rate–setting study and developing the
19 payment system required by this paragraph.

20 (2) The Administration, on or before September 30, 2019, shall complete
21 the study required under paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection.

22 (3) The Administration shall adopt regulations to implement the payment
23 system required by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

24 (f) If services of community providers are provided through managed care
25 organizations, the managed care organizations shall:

26 (1) Pay the rate in effect during the immediately preceding fiscal year for
27 the first fiscal year the managed care organizations provide the services; and

28 (2) Adjust the rate for community providers each fiscal year by at least the
29 same amount that otherwise would have been required under subsection (d) of this section.

30 (g) Increased funding provided under subsection (d) of this section may be used
31 only to increase the rates paid to:

32 (1) Community providers accredited by a State–approved accrediting body
33 and licensed by the State; and

1 (2) Health care providers who are acting within the scopes of practice of
2 the health care providers' licenses or certificates as specified under the Health Occupations
3 Article.

4 (h) (1) On or before December 1, 2018, the Department shall submit an interim
5 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,
6 the General Assembly on the delivery system through which community–based behavioral
7 health services should be provided and any preliminary recommendations regarding the
8 payment system required under this section.

9 (2) On or before December 1, 2019, and on or before December 1 each year
10 thereafter, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with
11 § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the impact of the rate
12 adjustments and the payment system required under this section on community providers,
13 including the impact on:

14 (i) The wages and salaries paid and the benefits provided to direct
15 care staff and licensed clinicians employed by community providers;

16 (ii) The tenure and turnover of direct care staff and licensed
17 clinicians employed by community providers; and

18 (iii) The ability of community providers to recruit qualified direct
19 care staff and licensed clinicians.

20 (3) The Department may require a community provider to submit, in the
21 form and manner required by the Department, information that the Department considers
22 necessary for completion of the report required under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

23 16–201.4.

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

25 (2) “Provider” means a provider of:

26 (i) Nursing home services;

27 (ii) Medical day care services;

28 (iii) Private duty nursing services;

29 (iv) Personal care services;

30 (v) Home– and community–based services; and

31 (vi) Services provided through the Community First Choice program.

1 (3) "Rate" means the reimbursement rate paid by the Department to
2 providers of nursing home, medical day care, private duty nursing, personal care, and
3 home- and community-based services and services provided through the Community First
4 Choice program from the State General Fund, Maryland Medical Assistance Program
5 funds, other State or federal funds, or a combination of these funds.

6 (b) (1) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 shall include a 4%
7 rate increase for providers over the funding provided in the legislative appropriation for
8 the immediately preceding fiscal year in Program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider
9 Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration and Program M00Q01.07
10 Maryland Children's Health Program – Medical Care Programs Administration.

11 (2) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 shall include a 4%
12 rate increase for providers over the funding provided in the legislative appropriation for
13 the immediately preceding fiscal year in Program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider
14 Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration and Program M00Q01.07
15 Maryland Children's Health Program – Medical Care Programs Administration.

16 (3) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 shall include a 4%
17 rate increase for providers over the funding provided in the legislative appropriation for
18 the immediately preceding fiscal year in Program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider
19 Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration and Program M00Q01.07
20 Maryland Children's Health Program – Medical Care Programs Administration.

21 (4) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 shall include a 4%
22 rate increase for providers over the funding provided in the legislative appropriation for
23 the immediately preceding fiscal year in Program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider
24 Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration and Program M00Q01.07
25 Maryland Children's Health Program – Medical Care Programs Administration.

26 (5) [The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 shall include a 4%
27 rate increase for providers over the funding provided in the legislative appropriation for
28 the immediately preceding fiscal year in Program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider
29 Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration and Program M00Q01.07
30 Maryland Children's Health Program – Medical Care Programs Administration.

31 (6) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 shall include a 4%
32 rate increase for providers over the funding provided in the legislative appropriation for
33 the immediately preceding fiscal year in Program M00Q01.03 Medical Care Provider
34 Reimbursements – Medical Care Programs Administration and Program M00Q01.07
35 Maryland Children's Health Program – Medical Care Programs Administration.

36 (7) The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year
37 thereafter shall be presented in the same manner, including object and program
38 information, as in the fiscal year 2020 budget.

1 3-413.

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

3 (2) **“CONSUMER PRICE INDEX” MEANS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**
4 **FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS FOR THE WASHINGTON-ARLINGTON-ALEXANDRIA,**
5 **DC-VA-MD-WV METROPOLITAN AREA OR A SUCCESSOR METROPOLITAN AREA**
6 **INDEX PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.**

7 (3) “Employer” includes a governmental unit.

8 [(3)] (4) “Small employer” means an employer that employs 14 or fewer
9 employees.

10 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and §§ 3-413.1 and 3-414
11 of this subtitle, each employer shall pay:

12 (1) to each employee who is subject to both the federal Act and this subtitle,
13 at least the greater of:

14 (i) the minimum wage for that employee under the federal Act; or
15 (ii) the State minimum wage set under subsection (c) of this section;
16 and

17 (2) to each other employee who is subject to this subtitle, at least the
18 greater of:

19 (i) the highest minimum wage under the federal Act; or
20 (ii) the State minimum wage set under subsection (c) of this section.

21 (c) (1) Subject to § 3-413.1 of this subtitle and except as provided in paragraph
22 (2) of this subsection, the State minimum wage rate is:

23 (i) [for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2017, \$9.25 per hour;

24 (ii) for the 18-month period beginning July 1, 2018, \$10.10 per hour;

25 (iii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2020, \$11.00 per
26 hour;

27 (iv) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2021, \$11.75 per
28 hour;

1 (v) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2022, \$12.50 per
2 hour;

3 (vi) for the [12 month] **9-MONTH** period beginning January 1, 2023,
4 \$13.25 per hour;

5 [(vii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2024, \$14.00 per
6 hour; and

7 (viii) **(II) FOR THE 21-MONTH PERIOD** beginning [January 1,
8 2025] **OCTOBER 1, 2023**, \$15.00 per hour; AND

9 **(III) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND**
10 **EACH SUBSEQUENT 12-MONTH PERIOD, THE RATE DETERMINED BY THE**
11 **COMMISSIONER UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

12 **(2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS**
13 **PARAGRAPH, FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND EACH**
14 **SUBSEQUENT 12-MONTH PERIOD, THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE SHALL BE**
15 **INCREASED BY THE AMOUNT, ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST 5 CENTS, THAT EQUALS**
16 **THE PRODUCT OF:**

17 1. **THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE IN EFFECT FOR THE**
18 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD; AND**

19 2. **THE LESSER OF:**

20 A. **THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN THE**
21 **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD,**
22 **AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II)1 OF THIS**
23 **PARAGRAPH; OR**

24 B. **5%.**

25 **(II) BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2025, AND EACH MARCH 1**
26 **THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DETERMINE AND ANNOUNCE:**

27 1. **THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE GROWTH, IF ANY, IN THE**
28 **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BASED ON THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH**
29 **PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE ON MARCH 1; AND**

30 2. **THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE EFFECTIVE FOR**
31 **THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING THE FOLLOWING JULY 1.**

1 **(III) IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A**
 2 **DECLINE OR NO GROWTH IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, THE STATE MINIMUM**
 3 **WAGE RATE SHALL REMAIN THE SAME AS THE RATE THAT WAS IN EFFECT FOR THE**
 4 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.**

5 **[(2)] (3)** Subject to § 3-413.1 of this subtitle, the State minimum wage
 6 rate for a small employer is:

7 (i) [for the 18-month period beginning July 1, 2018, \$10.10 per
 8 hour;

9 (ii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2020, \$11.00 per
 10 hour;

11 (iii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2021, \$11.60 per
 12 hour;

13 (iv) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2022, \$12.20 per
 14 hour;

15 (v) for the [12-month] **9-MONTH** period beginning January 1, 2023,
 16 \$12.80 per hour; **AND**

17 [(vi) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2024, \$13.40 per
 18 hour;

19 (vii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2025, \$14.00 per
 20 hour;

21 (viii) for the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2026, \$14.60 per
 22 hour; and

23 (ix) **(II) FOR THE 21-MONTH PERIOD** beginning [July 1, 2026]
 24 **OCTOBER 1, 2023**, \$15.00 per hour; **AND**

25 **(III) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND**
 26 **EACH SUBSEQUENT 12-MONTH PERIOD, EQUIVALENT TO THE STATE MINIMUM**
 27 **WAGE RATE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

28 (d) An employer may pay an employee a wage that equals a rate of 85% of the
 29 State minimum wage established under this section if the employee is under the age of 18
 30 years.

31 3-413.1.

32 (a) In this section, "Board" means the Board of Public Works.

1 (b) [(1)] Subject to subsection (d) of this section [and except as provided in
2 paragraph (2) of this subsection], on or before [October 1, 2020] **MARCH 1, 2025**, and
3 [October] **MARCH** 1 each year thereafter [until October 1, 2024], the Board shall
4 determine whether the seasonally adjusted total employment from the Current
5 Employment Statistics series as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the
6 most recent 6-month period is negative as compared with the immediately preceding
7 6-month period.

8 [(2)] The Board is not required to make a determination under paragraph
9 (1) of this subsection if the Board has previously temporarily suspended an increase to the
10 minimum wage rate specified under § 3-413(c) of this subtitle.]

11 (c) (1) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Board may temporarily
12 suspend an increase to the minimum wage rate specified under § 3-413(c) of this subtitle
13 if the Board determined under subsection [(b)(1)] **(B)** of this section that the seasonally
14 adjusted total employment is negative.

15 (2) If the seasonally adjusted total employment is negative, the Board may
16 consider the performance of State revenues in the previous 6 months, as reported by the
17 Office of the Comptroller, in determining whether to temporarily suspend an increase to
18 the minimum wage rate specified under § 3-413(c) of this subtitle.

19 (d) [The Board may temporarily suspend an increase to the minimum wage rate
20 under subsection (c)(1) of this section only one time.

21 (e)] If the Board temporarily suspends an increase to the minimum wage rate
22 specified under § 3-413(c) of this subtitle:

23 (1) the minimum wage rate in effect for the period beginning the following
24 [January] **JULY** 1 shall remain the same as the rate that was in effect for the immediately
25 preceding 12-month period;

26 (2) the remaining minimum wage rates specified in § 3-413 of this subtitle
27 shall take effect 1 year later than the date specified; **AND**

28 (3) the Board shall notify the Commissioner that the minimum wage rate
29 increase for the period beginning the following [January] **JULY** 1 is suspended for 1 year[;
30 and

31 (4) a rate increase under §§ 7-307, 16-201.3, and 16-201.4 of the
32 Health – General Article for the immediately following fiscal year may not go into effect].

33 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That this Act shall take effect July
34 1, 2023.