

Chapter 805

(Senate Bill 563)

AN ACT concerning

Local Health Departments – Funding

FOR the purpose of specifying the amount of funding required to be included in the State budget for local health services for certain fiscal years; altering the purposes for which local health department funding may be used; prohibiting certain State funding to a subdivision for local health services from being less than the subdivision received in a certain fiscal year; repealing obsolete provisions of law; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to conduct a certain evaluation regarding local health departments on or before a certain date; requiring the Department to consult with certain entities when conducting the evaluation; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining a certain term; and generally relating to local health departments.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 2–301, 2–303, and 2–305
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 2–302 and 2–304
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

2–301.

The Governor shall include in the State budget, beginning with fiscal year 1997, at a minimum, sufficient funds for local health services as required by this subtitle.

2–302.

(a) The funding required in the State budget for local health services, exclusive of special fund and federal appropriations, shall be at least the amount set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The funding shall be:

(1) **[\$37,283,484** in each of fiscal years 2011 and 2012, to be distributed as follows:

(i)	Allegany County.....	\$908,719;
(ii)	Anne Arundel County.....	\$3,141,951;
(iii)	Baltimore City.....	\$6,675,053;
(iv)	Baltimore County.....	\$4,302,255;
(v)	Calvert County.....	\$369,812;
(vi)	Caroline County.....	\$538,253;
(vii)	Carroll County.....	\$1,231,995;
(viii)	Cecil County.....	\$806,392;
(ix)	Charles County.....	\$994,528;
(x)	Dorchester County.....	\$428,709;
(xi)	Frederick County.....	\$1,512,159;
(xii)	Garrett County.....	\$437,403;
(xiii)	Harford County.....	\$1,737,473;
(xiv)	Howard County.....	\$1,215,070;
(xv)	Kent County.....	\$335,941;
(xvi)	Montgomery County.....	\$3,014,680;
(xvii)	Prince George's County.....	\$5,007,057;
(xviii)	Queen Anne's County.....	\$417,744;
(xix)	St. Mary's County.....	\$808,576;
(xx)	Somerset County.....	\$429,385;

(xxi) Talbot County.....\$328,705;

(xxii) Washington County.....\$1,381,306;

(xxiii) Wicomico County.....\$947,374;

and

(xxiv) Worcester County.....\$312,944;

(2) For fiscal years 2013 and 2014, \$37,283,484 adjusted for:

(i) Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers), for the second preceding fiscal year, calculated by the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

(ii) Population growth, as measured by the growth in the total population of the State of Maryland for the second preceding fiscal year, according to the most recent statistics available through the Maryland Department of Health;

(3) For fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017, the amount of funding for the preceding fiscal year adjusted for:

(i) Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers), for the second preceding fiscal year, calculated by the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

(ii) Population growth, as measured by the growth in the total population of the State for the second preceding fiscal year, according to the most recent statistics available through the Maryland Department of Health;

(4) For fiscal year 2018, \$49,488,474 to be distributed to each municipality or subdivision in the same amount as the municipality or subdivision received in fiscal year 2017; and

(5) For fiscal [year 2019 and each subsequent fiscal year] **YEARS 2019, 2020, 2021, ~~AND 2022, 2023, AND 2024~~**, the amount of funding provided through the formula for the preceding fiscal year adjusted for:

(i) Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers), on June 30 of the second preceding fiscal year, calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor; and

(ii) Population growth, as measured by the growth in the total population of the State on June 30 of the second preceding fiscal year, according to the most recent statistics available through the U.S. Department of Commerce;

(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2023~~ 2025, \$70,000,000, TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MUNICIPALITY OR SUBDIVISION IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE FISCAL YEAR ~~2022~~ 2024 FUNDING DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MUNICIPALITY OR SUBDIVISION;

(3) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2024~~ 2026, \$80,000,000, TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MUNICIPALITY OR SUBDIVISION IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE FISCAL YEAR ~~2023~~ 2025 FUNDING DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MUNICIPALITY OR SUBDIVISION;
AND

(4) FOR FISCAL YEAR ~~2025~~ 2027 AND EACH SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR, THE GREATER OF:

(I) THE FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE FORMULA FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR; OR

(II) THE ACTUAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, ADJUSTED FOR:

1. INFLATION, AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL URBAN CONSUMERS), ON JUNE 30 OF THE SECOND IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, CALCULATED BY THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; AND

2. POPULATION GROWTH, AS MEASURED BY THE GROWTH IN THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE STATE ON JUNE 30 OF THE SECOND IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT STATISTICS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

(c) For fiscal year [2013] ~~2025~~ 2027 and each subsequent fiscal year, no subdivision may receive less State funding for local health services under this section than that subdivision received in fiscal year [2012] ~~2024~~ 2026.

(d) The Secretary shall, in consultation with local health department directors, adopt regulations to guide the distribution of the funding required under this section. The regulations shall give consideration to appropriate measures of community health need, local funding effort, and other relevant factors.

2-303.

As to appropriations required by this subtitle, a local match shall be required as a condition of any distribution to a subdivision; however, the local match percentage required by the Secretary of Health may not exceed the local match percentage required for the subdivision for fiscal year 1996.

2-304.

The appropriations described in this subtitle shall be used for programs, including related administrative expenses, directed at the following:

- (1) Communicable disease control services;
- (2) Environmental health services;
- (3) Family planning services;
- (4) Maternal and child health services;
- (5) Wellness promotion services;
- (6) Adult health and geriatric services; [and]

(7) DATA MANAGEMENT AND EXCHANGE SERVICES REGARDING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND OTHER HEALTH MATTERS, AS ALLOWED UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW;

(8) PROVIDING PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR NURSES, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, PHYSICIANS, AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL IN CONTACT WITH PATIENTS;

(9) PROVIDING EQUIPMENT, MEDICATION, AND OTHER MATERIALS DETERMINED TO BE APPROPRIATE TO PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EMERGENCIES, OR OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES; AND

[(7)] (10) Administration and communication services associated with the provision of the services described in items (1) through **[(6)] (9)** of this section.

2-305.

The funds designated for the provision of local health services under this subtitle may not be transferred to any other program for any other purpose.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) In this section, “Department” means the Maryland Department of Health.

(b) On or before December 1, 2021, the Department shall conduct an evaluation and assessment of the technology, communications, and information services:

- (1) used by local health departments;

- (2) made available by the Department; and
- (3) shared or coordinated through local health departments.

(c) In conducting the evaluation under subsection (b) of this section, the Department shall consult with:

- (1) the Department of Information Technology;
- (2) the Maryland Association of Counties;
- (3) local health departments; and
- (4) stakeholders who provide or receive services through a local health department.

(d) (1) The Department shall prepare a report of its findings and recommendations regarding:

(i) the current capacity of local health departments to effectively maintain, share, and analyze data regarding communicable diseases, medical and health trends, and other information relevant to guarding and treating the public health of Maryland residents; and

(ii) recommendations to enhance local health department services through:

- 1. major projects or technology initiatives;
- 2. improvements to internal processes for procurement of technology;
- 3. noncentralized hardware or software upgrades; and
- 4. best practices used by other public health units of government.

(2) On or before December 15, 2021, the Department shall submit the report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.