

# SENATE BILL 560

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By: **Senators M. Washington and Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Maryland Commission on Health Equity – Membership and**  
3 **Purposes**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the Maryland Commission on Health  
5 Equity; altering the purposes of the Commission to include employing a health equity  
6 framework to examine the impact of access to transportation, transit programs, and  
7 transit services and proximity to health care facilities and primary care providers on  
8 the health of residents of the State; and generally relating to the Maryland  
9 Commission on Health Equity.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Health – General  
12 Section 13–4302  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Health – General  
17 Section 13–4303(a) and 13–4305(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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**

23 13–4302.

24 There is a Maryland Commission on Health Equity.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 13-4303.

2 (a) The Commission consists of the following members:

3 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

4 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
5 House;

6 (3) The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee;

7 (4) The Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;

8 (5) The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

9 **(6) THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S**  
10 **DESIGNEE;**

11 **[(6)] (7)** The Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

12 **[(7)] (8)** The State Superintendent of Schools, or the State  
13 Superintendent's designee;

14 **(9) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
15 **DESIGNEE;**

16 **[(8)] (10)** The Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the  
17 Secretary's designee;

18 **[(9)] (11)** The Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

19 **[(10)] (12)** The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

20 **(13) THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, OR THE**  
21 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

22 **[(11)] (14)** The Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health, or the Deputy  
23 Secretary's designee;

24 **[(12)] (15)** The Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, or the Deputy  
25 Secretary's designee;

26 **[(13)] (16)** The Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing, or the Deputy  
27 Secretary's designee;

1            [(14)] (17) The Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance  
2 Commissioner's designee;

3            [(15)] (18) The Executive Director of the Health Services Cost Review  
4 Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

5            [(16)] (19) The Executive Director of the Office of Minority Health and  
6 Health Disparities, or the Executive Director's designee;

7            [(17)] (20) The Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care  
8 Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

9            [(18)] (21) The Executive Director of the Maryland Community Health  
10 Resources Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

11            **(22) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY, OR**  
12 **THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

13            [(19)] (23) One representative of a local health department, designated by  
14 the Maryland Association of County Health Officers; and

15            [(20)] (24) The following members, appointed by the Secretary with the  
16 advice of the Health Services Cost Review Commission:

17                    (i) At least one representative of hospitals in the State;

18                    (ii) At least two individuals with experience in hospital-based  
19 population health;

20                    (iii) At least one representative of a federally qualified health center  
21 in the State;

22                    (iv) At least two representatives of community-based organizations;

23                    (v) At least two patients from underserved communities;

24                    (vi) At least one representative of a managed care organization;

25                    (vii) At least one representative of a commercial health insurer;

26                    **(VIII) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE MOVING FORWARD**  
27 **NURSING HOME QUALITY COALITION;**

28                    [(viii)] (IX) At least two representatives of clinicians and providers  
29 who are not affiliated with a hospital or a federally qualified health center;

1                                    [(ix)] (X)     At least one representative from the State Rural Health  
2 Office; and

3                                    [(x)] (XI)    At least one representative of a tribal community in the  
4 State.

5 13–4305.

6            (a)     The [purpose] **PURPOSES** of the Commission [is] **ARE** to:

7                    (1)     Employ a health equity framework to:

8                                    (i)     Develop a statewide health equity plan; and

9                                    (ii)    Examine:

10                                    1.     The health of residents of the State to the extent necessary  
11 to carry out the requirements of this section;

12                                    2.     Ways for units of State and local government to  
13 collaborate to implement policies that will positively impact the health of residents of the  
14 State; and

15                                    3.     The impact of the following factors on the health of  
16 residents of the State:

17                                    A.     Access to safe and affordable housing;

18                                    B.     Educational attainment;

19                                    C.     Opportunities for employment;

20                                    D.     Economic stability;

21                                    **E.     ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION, TRANSIT PROGRAMS,**  
22 **AND TRANSIT SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN § 7–101 OF THE TRANSPORTATION**  
23 **ARTICLE;**

24                                    **F.     PROXIMITY TO HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AS**  
25 **DEFINED IN § 19–114 OF THIS ARTICLE, AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS;**

26                                    [E.] **G.     Environmental factors;**

27                                    [F.] **H.     Public safety, including the impact of crime, citizen**  
28 **unrest, the criminal justice system, and governmental policies that affect individuals who**  
29 **are in prison or released from prison; and**

1 [G.] I. Food insecurity;

2 (2) Provide direct advice to the Secretary and the State's independent  
3 health regulatory commissions, and indirect advice to the Department's senior  
4 administrators and planners through the Secretary, regarding issues of racial, ethnic,  
5 cultural, or socioeconomic health disparities;

6 (3) Facilitate coordination of the expertise and experience of the State's  
7 health and human services, housing, transportation, education, environment, community  
8 development, and labor systems in developing a comprehensive health equity plan  
9 addressing the social determinants of health; and

10 (4) Set goals for health equity and prepare a plan for the State to achieve  
11 health equity in alignment with any other statewide planning activities.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
13 1, 2025.