

HOUSE BILL 1517

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By: **Delegates P. Young, Brooks, Guyton, and Jalisi**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Critical Medical Needs Program Expansion Pilot Program – Social Services**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Critical Medical Needs Program Expansion Pilot
4 Program in the Department of Human Services; stating that the purpose of the Pilot
5 Program is to provide assistance to certain critical medically vulnerable individuals
6 and their households with the application process for certain social services in
7 Baltimore County and the City of Baltimore; requiring the Department to implement
8 and administer the Pilot Program in partnership with certain agencies and
9 organizations; establishing the qualifications for assistance under the Pilot Program;
10 prohibiting the Department from requiring a certain critical medically vulnerable
11 individual to provide certain additional documentation to qualify for assistance;
12 requiring the Pilot Program to assist certain individuals with the application process for
13 certain social services through certain navigators; requiring the Department to
14 establish training requirements for certain navigators, provide or facilitate certain
15 training, develop a certain database and establish a certain tracking system, create
16 certain administrative positions, report annually to the General Assembly on or before
17 a certain date, and adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; providing for the
18 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Critical Medical Needs Program
19 Expansion Pilot Program.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
21 Article – Human Services
22 Section 5–5A–08(a)(3) and (4)
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

25 BY adding to
26 Article – Human Services
27 Section 5–5A–08.1
28 Annotated Code of Maryland
29 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

Article – Human Services

5–5A–08.

(a) (3) “Critical medically vulnerable individual” means an individual who:

(i) has a severe health condition that will be aggravated due to the termination or noncontinuation of electric or gas service or needs the use of life-support equipment as documented and certified in accordance with regulations on a certification of serious illness or life support form submitted to the appropriate electric or gas company;

(ii) has or will have their electric or gas service terminated for nonpayment; and

(iii) is unable to complete the energy assistance applications under available energy assistance programs, including energy efficiency programs offered by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(4) “Navigator” means a representative from a medical facility or from a public or private assistance agency or organization who:

(i) is in personal contact with a critical medically vulnerable individual; and

(ii) assists the critical medically vulnerable individual in the energy assistance application process.

5–5A–08.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “CMN PROGRAM” MEANS THE CRITICAL MEDICAL NEEDS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5–5A–08 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) “CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE CRITICAL MEDICAL NEEDS PROGRAM EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(4) “CRITICAL MEDICALLY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUAL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–5A–08 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

1 **(5) “NAVIGATOR” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-5A-08 OF THIS**
2 **SUBTITLE.**

3 **(6) “SOCIAL SERVICES” MEANS THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
4 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE,**
5 **TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, FAMILY EMERGENCY GRANTS, ADULT**
6 **EMERGENCY GRANTS, EMERGENCY EVICTION PREVENTION, AND DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **AGING GRANTS FOR SENIORS OR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS.**

8 **(B) (1) THERE IS A CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM IN THE**
9 **DEPARTMENT.**

10 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM IS TO**
11 **EXPAND THE EXISTING CMN PROGRAM TO FACILITATE ASSISTANCE TO CRITICAL**
12 **MEDICALLY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS WITH THE**
13 **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN BALTIMORE COUNTY AND THE**
14 **CITY OF BALTIMORE.**

15 **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE**
16 **CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM.**

17 **(4) IN ADMINISTERING THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM,**
18 **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PARTNER WITH THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE’S COUNSEL, THE**
19 **FUEL FUND OF CENTRAL MARYLAND, THE CANCER SUPPORT FOUNDATION, OTHER**
20 **STATE AGENCIES, AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT**
21 **DETERMINES APPROPRIATE.**

22 **(C) (1) TO QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CMNP EXPANSION**
23 **PILOT PROGRAM, A CRITICAL MEDICALLY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUAL MUST:**

24 **(I) BE RECEIVING OR HAVE RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM A**
25 **NAVIGATOR UNDER THE CMN PROGRAM; AND**

26 **(II) BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATIONS FOR**
27 **AVAILABLE SOCIAL SERVICES.**

28 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE A CRITICAL MEDICALLY**
29 **VULNERABLE INDIVIDUAL TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OF**
30 **MEDICAL NEED TO QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT**
31 **PROGRAM.**

(D) (1) THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST CRITICAL MEDICALLY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN BALTIMORE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF BALTIMORE THROUGH NAVIGATORS.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) ESTABLISH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR NAVIGATORS AND PUBLISH THE REQUIREMENTS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE;

(II) TRAIN NAVIGATORS OR FACILITATE THE TRAINING OF NAVIGATORS BY OTHERS ON AN ONGOING BASIS;

(III) DEVELOP A DATABASE AND ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FOR CRITICAL MEDICALLY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(IV) CREATE ONE FULL-TIME POSITION AND ONE PART-TIME POSITION TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM.

(E) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMNP EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 1 month, and, at the end of October 31, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.