

HOUSE BILL 381

J5, J1, J4

5lr0996

By: **Delegates Martinez, Acevero, Lehman, R. Lewis, Roberts, Taylor, Woods, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required**
3 **Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic**
4 **Violence**
5 **(Healing Our Scars Act)**

6 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain
7 insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and
8 managed care organizations to provide coverage to victims of domestic violence for
9 certain aesthetic services and restorative care; and generally relating to coverage for
10 aesthetic services and restorative care for victims of domestic violence by the
11 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and health insurance carriers.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Family Law
14 Section 4–501(a) and (d) and 4–513
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Health – General
19 Section 15–102.3(m) and 15–103(a)(2)(xxv)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
23 Article – Health – General
24 Section 15–103(a)(1)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 15–103(a)(2)(xxiii) and (xxiv)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Insurance
Section 15–861
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

4–501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(d) “Cohabitant” means a person who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent and resided with the respondent in the home for a period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition.

4–513.

In this Part III of this subtitle, “victim of domestic violence” means an individual who has received deliberate, severe, and demonstrable physical injury, or is in fear of imminent deliberate, severe, and demonstrable physical injury from a current or former spouse, or a current or former cohabitant, as defined in § 4–501 of this subtitle.

Article – Health – General

15–102.3.

**(M) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15–861 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE APPLY TO
MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SAME MANNER THEY APPLY TO CARRIERS.**

15–103.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

(2) The Program:

(xxiii) Beginning on July 1, 2025, shall provide, subject to the limitations of the State budget, and as permitted by federal law, coverage for biomarker testing in accordance with § 15–859 of the Insurance Article; [and]

(xxiv) Beginning on January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for prostheses in accordance with § 15–844 of the Insurance Article; AND

(XXV) BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2026, SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR AESTHETIC SERVICES AND RESTORATIVE CARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15–861 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE.

Article – Insurance

15–861.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4–513 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

(1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON AN EXPENSE–INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

(2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER CONTRACTS THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

(C) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR AESTHETIC SERVICES AND RESTORATIVE CARE:

(1) PROVIDED FOR THE TREATMENT OF PHYSICAL INJURIES CAUSED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND

(2) DETERMINED TO BE MEDICALLY NECESSARY BY A PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2026.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 January 1, 2026.