

Chapter 615

(House Bill 1104)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Department of Health – AHEAD Model Implementation – Electronic Health Care Transactions and Population Health Improvement Fund

FOR the purpose of clarifying that electronic health care transactions information may be used to support the participation of the State in the States Advancing All–Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model and any successor models; establishing the Population Health Improvement Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to invest in population health improvements to support the statewide population health targets under the AHEAD Model and any successor models; requiring that interest earnings of the Fund be credited to the Fund; authorizing the Health Services Cost Review Commission to assess a certain amount in hospital rates to be credited to the Fund; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to make a draft of a certain report available for public comment; requiring the Department and the Commission to meet with certain members of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the implementation of the AHEAD Model.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 4–302.3(f)(3)(i), (h)(1), and (j)(3)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health – General
Section 13–5501 and 13–5502 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 55. Population Health Improvement Fund”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii) 204. and 205.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)206.

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 13–5502(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

(As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)

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

Article – Health – General

4–302.3.

(f) (3) (i) If approved by the Maryland Health Care Commission, the information submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be combined with other data maintained by the State–designated health information exchange to facilitate:

1. A State health improvement program;
2. Mitigation of a public health emergency; [and]
3. Improvement of patient safety; **AND**

4. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE IN THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION’S STATES ADVANCING ALL–PAYER HEALTH EQUITY APPROACHES AND DEVELOPMENT (AHEAD) MODEL AND ANY SUCCESSOR MODELS.

(h) (1) An electronic health network shall provide electronic health care transactions to the State–designated health information exchange for the following public health and clinical purposes:

- (i) A State health improvement program;
- (ii) Mitigation of a public health emergency; [and]
- (iii) Improvement of patient safety; **AND**

(IV) THE PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE IN THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION’S STATES ADVANCING ALL-PAYER HEALTH EQUITY APPROACHES AND DEVELOPMENT (AHEAD) MODEL AND ANY SUCCESSOR MODELS.

(j) (3) Regulations adopted under paragraph (1) of this subsection [shall]:

(i) [Limit] **SHALL LIMIT** redisclosure of financial information, including billed or paid amounts available in electronic claims transactions;

(II) MAY NOT RESTRICT THE STATE’S USE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING BILLED OR PAID AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC CLAIMS TRANSACTIONS, FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE IN THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION’S STATES ADVANCING ALL-PAYER HEALTH EQUITY APPROACHES AND DEVELOPMENT (AHEAD) MODEL AND ANY SUCCESSOR MODELS;

[(ii)] **(III) [Restrict] SHALL RESTRICT** data of patients who have opted out of records sharing through the State–designated health information exchange or a health information exchange authorized by the Maryland Health Care Commission;

[(iii)] **(IV) [Restrict] SHALL RESTRICT** data from health care providers that possess sensitive health care information; and

[(iv)] **(V) [Restrict] SHALL RESTRICT** data of patients who have obtained legally protected health care.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

SUBTITLE 55. POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FUND.

13–5501.

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

(B) “AHEAD MODEL” MEANS THE STATES ADVANCING ALL-PAYER HEALTH EQUITY APPROACHES AND DEVELOPMENT MODEL ADMINISTERED BY THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION.

(C) “FUND” MEANS THE POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FUND.

(D) “STATEWIDE HEALTH EQUITY PLAN” MEANS THE EQUITY PLAN REQUIRED UNDER THE AHEAD MODEL STATE AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES.

13-5502.

(A) THERE IS A POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FUND.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO INVEST IN POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT THE STATEWIDE POPULATION HEALTH TARGETS UNDER THE AHEAD MODEL AND ANY SUCCESSOR MODELS.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION JOINTLY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

(1) THE REVENUES FROM THE UNIFORM, BROAD-BASED ASSESSMENT MADE UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(K)~~ (L) OF THIS SECTION;

(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

(3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

(F) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH STATEWIDE POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE STATEWIDE HEALTH EQUITY PLAN AS DIRECTED BY THE SECRETARY.

(2) ACTIVITIES PAID FOR BY THE FUND MUST SUPPORT THE GOAL OF MEETING THE STATEWIDE POPULATION HEALTH TARGETS OUTLINED IN THE AHEAD MODEL STATE AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES AND HAVE AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

(I) REDUCING RATES OF COMMON PREVENTABLE HEALTH CONDITIONS;

(II) ADDRESSING HEALTH-RELATED SOCIAL NEEDS; OR

(III) REDUCING OR ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES.

(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

(H) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

(I) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(J) THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

~~(K) (1) EACH YEAR, THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION MAY ASSESS A UNIFORM, BROAD-BASED, AND REASONABLE AMOUNT IN HOSPITAL RATES TO BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.~~

~~(2) FUNDS GENERATED FROM THE ASSESSMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE EXPENSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(K) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH YEAR OF THE TOTAL COST OF CARE MODEL, THE AHEAD MODEL, OR ANY SUCCESSOR MODEL, THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION MAY ASSESS A UNIFORM, BROAD-BASED, AND REASONABLE AMOUNT IN HOSPITAL RATES TO BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.~~

~~(2) THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN THE HOSPITAL RATES.~~

~~(3) ANY FUNDS GENERATED FROM THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE EXPENSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(L)~~ (K) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

(I) REFLECT THE REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AS OUTLINED IN THE STATE AGREEMENT AND SHALL INCLUDE:

1. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS FOR FUNDED PROGRAMS AND TARGETED POPULATIONS;

2. ANY IMPACT ON HEALTH OUTCOMES AND HEALTH DISPARITIES; AND

3. RELEVANT COMPONENTS FROM HOSPITAL REQUIRED REPORTING TO THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION ON POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS; AND

(II) INCLUDE:

1. AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL SOURCES OF FUNDING ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND AND THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING FROM EACH SOURCE; AND

2. A SUMMARY OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH PUBLIC COMMENTS INFORMED THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSION.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE A DRAFT OF ITS REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR 30 DAYS.

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6–226.

(a) (2) (i) 1. This subparagraph does not apply in fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to

receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

204. the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund;
[and]

205. the Proposed Programs Collaborative Grant Fund; AND

206. THE POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FUND.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

13-5502.

(L) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH YEAR OF THE TOTAL COST OF CARE MODEL, THE AHEAD MODEL, OR ANY SUCCESSOR MODEL, THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION MAY ASSESS A UNIFORM, BROAD-BASED, AND REASONABLE AMOUNT IN HOSPITAL RATES TO BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

(2) THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN THE HOSPITAL RATES.

(3) ANY FUNDS GENERATED FROM THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE EXPENSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

13-5502.

(e) The Fund consists of:

[(1) The revenues from the uniform, broad-based assessment made under subsection (l) of this section;]

~~[(2)]~~ (1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

~~[(3)]~~ (2) Interest earnings; and

~~[(4)]~~ (3) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Health and the Health Services Cost Review Commission shall provide periodic updates on the AHEAD model or any successor model to designated members of the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates.

(b) The President shall designate three members of the Senate of Maryland, and the Speaker shall designate three members of the House of Delegates, to meet with the Department and the Commission on a monthly basis beginning July 2025.

(c) The meetings required under this section shall continue through December 2026.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 4 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2028. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of December 31, 2030, Section 4 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION ~~2~~ ~~3~~ 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 6 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025. ~~It~~ Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2030, Sections 1 and 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. Section 3 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2027, Section 3 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. Section 5 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2026, Section 5 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.