

# SENATE BILL 1080

J1, E4

EMERGENCY BILL

0lr3783  
CF HB 1663

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By: **The President and Senator Lam**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 4, 2020

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health**  
3 **Emergency – Authority of Governor**  
4 **(COVID–19 Public Health Emergency Protection Act of 2020)**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Governor to take certain actions as a result of the  
6 issuance of a certain proclamation for the duration of a certain emergency; defining  
7 certain terms; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination  
8 of this Act; and generally relating to the authority of the Governor in a state of  
9 emergency and a catastrophic health emergency.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
11 That:

12 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

13 (2) “Carrier” means:

14 (i) an insurer;

15 (ii) a nonprofit health service plan; or

16 (iii) a health maintenance organization.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (3)    “COVID–19” means, interchangeably and collectively, the coronavirus  
2 known as COVID–19 or 2019–nCoV and the SARS–CoV–2 virus.

3           ~~(3)~~ (4)    “Department” means the Maryland Department of Health.

4           ~~(4)~~ (5)    “Health care provider” has the meaning stated in § 14–3A–01 of the  
5 Public Safety Article.

6           ~~(5)~~ (6)    “Program” means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

7           (b)    As a result of the issuance by the Governor on March 5, 2020, of the  
8 proclamation declaring a state of emergency and the existence of a catastrophic health  
9 emergency or any other proclamation issued under Title 14 of the Public Safety Article  
10 relating to the outbreak of COVID–19, the Governor, for the duration of the emergency,  
11 may:

12           (1)    prohibit cost–sharing by carriers for ~~disease~~ COVID–19 testing and any  
13 associated costs that is conducted based on testing protocols recommended by the Secretary  
14 of Health;

15           (2)    order the Department to cover the cost of ~~disease~~ COVID–19 testing  
16 and any associated costs, if the costs would not otherwise be paid for by a carrier or another  
17 third party;

18           (3)    require carriers and the Program to cover the cost of an immunization  
19 for COVID–19 and any associated costs, without cost–sharing, if:

20           (i)    the immunization has been determined by the Department to  
21 prevent the disease that is the basis for the issuance of the proclamation; and

22           (ii)   the patient belongs to a category of individuals to whom the  
23 Department has determined cost–sharing should not apply;

24           (4)    notwithstanding any other provision of law, establish or waive  
25 telehealth protocols for COVID–19, including authorizing health care professionals  
26 licensed out–of–state to provide telehealth to patients in the State;

27           (5)    order the Department to reimburse synchronous and asynchronous  
28 telehealth services for COVID–19 provided to a patient, without regard to whether the  
29 patient is at a clinical site, if the service is:

30           (i)    covered by the Program;

31           (ii)   provided by a health care provider participating in the Program;

32 and

33           (iii)  authorized under the health care provider’s scope of practice;

1 (6) consult, as appropriate, with the Department, the Maryland Insurance  
2 Commissioner, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to develop and implement  
3 orders relating to COVID-19 to:

4 (i) minimize disruption in enrollment in health insurance and the  
5 Program;

6 (ii) facilitate reimbursement by carriers of telehealth services  
7 provided to patients in the State; and

8 (iii) facilitate reimbursement of essential services to minimize the  
9 risk to public health;

10 (7) (i) ~~for the duration of the emergency,~~ prohibit a retailer from  
11 increasing the sale or rental price of any good or service to a price that increases the  
12 retailer's value of profit by more than 10%, including for the price of:

13 1. food;

14 2. fuel;

15 3. water and ice;

16 4. medicine;

17 5. medical supplies and equipment;

18 6. cleaning products;

19 7. building supplies and equipment;

20 8. energy sources; and

21 9. storage space; and

22 (ii) publish a list of goods and services to which item (i) of this item  
23 applies; and

24 (8) prohibit an employer from terminating an employee solely on the basis  
25 that the employee has been required to be isolated or quarantined under Title 14 of the  
26 Public Safety Article.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
28 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
29 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
30 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is

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1 enacted. It shall remain effective through April 30, 2021, and, at the end of April 30, 2021,  
2 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
3 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.