O1, C5 CF HB 945

By: Senator Benson

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

21

22

23

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning 2 Human Services - Critical Medical Needs Program - Application for Assistance 3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Office of Home Energy Programs from requiring certain 4 medical certification when an individual applies for assistance from the Critical 5 Medical Needs Program if the applicant is at least a certain age and assisted by a 6 navigator; and generally relating to the application for assistance from the Critical 7 Medical Needs Program. 8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, 9 Article – Human Services 10 Section 5-5A-08 Annotated Code of Maryland 11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement) 12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: 14 Article - Human Services 15 5-5A-08. 16 17 (a) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated. (1) 18 (2)"CMN Program" means the Critical Medical Needs Program 19 established under this section. 20 (3)"Critical medically vulnerable individual" means an individual who:

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

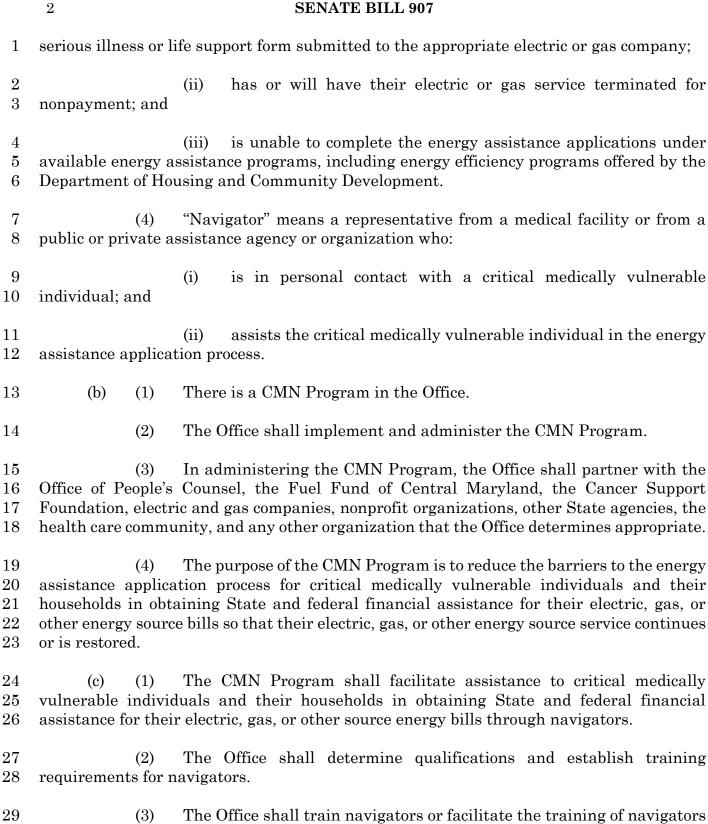
EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

(i)



has a severe health condition that will be aggravated due to the



31 In accordance with the requirements set forth in the Code of Maryland 32 Regulations, the Office shall work with electric and gas companies to implement, for critical

medically vulnerable individuals: 33

by others.

30

- 1 (1) a medical hold on electric or gas service or an expedited process to grant 2 the extension of electric or gas service for those who will have their electric or gas services 3 terminated; and
- 4 (2) an expedited process for the restoration of electric or gas service for those who have had their electric or gas service terminated.
- 6 (e) If a critical medically vulnerable individual is at least 60 YEARS OLD AND ASSISTED BY A NAVIGATOR WHEN APPLYING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CMN PROGRAM, THE OFFICE MAY NOT REQUIRE THE INDIVIDUAL TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION FROM A MEDICAL PROVIDER OF THE SEVERE HEALTH CONDITION.
- 10 **(F)** The Office shall establish a tracking system of the status of critical medically vulnerable individuals who participate in the CMN Program.
- 12 [(f)] (G) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2021.