

# SENATE BILL 973

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By: **Senator Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hospitals – Private Hospital Grant Program – Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of codifying a private hospital grant program for the purpose of making  
4 recommendations to the Governor for funding for capital projects at private hospitals  
5 in the State; requiring the Maryland Hospital Association to establish a certain  
6 review committee; authorizing the Governor to include in the capital or operating  
7 budget bill a certain amount of funding in each fiscal year for the Private Hospital  
8 Grant Program; and generally relating to funding for hospitals in the State.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Health – General  
11 Section 19–310.4  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article – Health – General**

17 **19–310.4.**

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

20 (2) “COMMITTEE” MEANS THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN  
21 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, THIS**  
2 **SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT AN ORGANIZATION FROM**  
3 **RECEIVING FUNDS FROM A GOVERNMENT SOURCE OTHER THAN THE PRIVATE**  
4 **HOSPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.**

5           **(C) THERE IS A PRIVATE HOSPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.**

6           **(D) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO**  
7 **THE GOVERNOR FOR FUNDING IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET FOR CAPITAL**  
8 **PROJECTS AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS IN THE STATE.**

9           **(E) (1) THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SHALL ESTABLISH A**  
10 **REVIEW COMMITTEE TO:**

11                   **(I) DEVELOP THE PROCESS FOR HOSPITALS IN THE STATE TO**  
12 **SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR FUNDING IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET;**

13                   **(II) ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR A HOSPITAL TO**  
14 **SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM;**

15                   **(III) ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR PROJECTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE**  
16 **FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM;**

17                   **(IV) ESTABLISH DEADLINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF**  
18 **REQUESTS FOR FUNDING AND THE DETERMINATION OF PROJECTS RECOMMENDED**  
19 **FOR FUNDING;**

20                   **(V) DEVELOP PROJECT SCORING AND SELECTION CRITERIA**  
21 **GUIDELINES;**

22                   **(VI) REVIEW ELIGIBLE REQUESTS FOR FUNDING; AND**

23                   **(VII) MAKE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECTS TO BE**  
24 **FUNDED IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET.**

25           **(2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE**  
26 **COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**  
27 **REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF HOSPITALS IN THE STATE.**

28           **(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND THE**  
29 **DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL CONSULT WITH THE COMMITTEE**  
30 **IN:**

1                   **(I) ESTABLISHING THE PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS**  
2 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

3                   **(II) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING REQUESTS.**

4           **(F) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND**  
5 **MANAGEMENT, THE COMMITTEE MAY ESTABLISH CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A**  
6 **REQUEST FOR FUNDING MAY BE REJECTED FOR CONSIDERATION.**

7           **(G) THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT THE**  
8 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE SECRETARY**  
9 **OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.**

10           **(H) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**  
11 **GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE CAPITAL OR OPERATING BUDGET BILL AN**  
12 **APPROPRIATION OF \$20,000,000 FOR THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL GRANT PROGRAM.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2024.