

HOUSE BILL 922

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8lr3357

By: Delegates Kipke, Afzali, Aumann, Barron, Bromwell, Buckel, Carey, Carozza, Chang, Cluster, Corderman, Flanagan, Frick, Frush, Grammer, C. Howard, S. Howard, Kelly, Kittleman, Krebs, Krimm, Long, Luedtke, Malone, McComas, McConkey, Metzgar, Miele, Morales, Morgan, Platt, Rose, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Sophocleus, Szeliga, Vogt, West, Wivell, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – “Pill Mill” Tip Line**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, on or before a certain
4 date, to establish a certain tip line through which a person may report a certain
5 individual who the reporting person suspects is prescribing medication or
6 overprescribing medication in violation of certain provisions of law; requiring the
7 Department to endeavor to ensure that a certain phone number translates
8 alphanumerically in a certain manner; establishing that the Department is
9 responsible for ensuring that certain reports are investigated by the appropriate
10 licensing board; requiring the Department to report to certain committees of the
11 General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a “pill mill”
12 tip line.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Health Occupations

15 Section 1–224

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Health Occupations**

21 **1–224.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2018, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
2 **ESTABLISH A TIP LINE THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY REPORT AN INDIVIDUAL**
3 **LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE WHO THE REPORTING PERSON SUSPECTS IS**
4 **PRESCRIBING MEDICATION OR OVERPRESCRIBING MEDICATION IN VIOLATION OF**
5 **ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE.**

6 **(2) IN ESTABLISHING THE TIP LINE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
7 **DEPARTMENT SHALL ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE THAT THE PHONE NUMBER**
8 **ASSOCIATED WITH THE TIP LINE TRANSLATES ALPHANUMERICALLY TO A**
9 **MEMORABLE WORD OR PHRASE.**

10 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT**
11 **REPORTS TO THE TIP LINE ARE INVESTIGATED BY THE APPROPRIATE LICENSING**
12 **BOARD.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
14 2019, the Maryland Department of Health shall report to the Senate Education, Health,
15 and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations
16 Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the status of
17 the tip line required under § 1–224(a)(1) of the Health – General Article, as enacted by
18 Section 1 of this Act, including:

19 (1) the Department’s attempts to identify a tip line phone number that
20 translates alphanumerically as required;

21 (2) the number of calls received by the tip line and the disposition of any
22 investigations resulting from the calls; and

23 (3) any recommendations relating to the tip line.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2018.