

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 796

(Senators Hayes and Lam)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

---

**State Commission on Kidney Disease - Membership - Revisions**

---

This bill repeals the requirement that specified members of the State Commission on Kidney Disease have no direct ownership in renal dialysis or kidney transplant centers that do business in the State. The bill decreases, from three to two, the number of names specified organizations must submit to the Governor for appointment to the commission. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The commission, housed within the Maryland Department of Health, is generally charged with providing oversight to the State Kidney Disease Program, which provides funding for kidney disease treatment for qualified individuals. The commission is responsible for adopting physical and medical standards for the operation of dialysis and transplant centers and certifies treatment centers that meet adopted standards. In addition, the commission is responsible for instituting and supervising education programs for health providers and the public on the prevention and treatment of chronic kidney disease and annually evaluating the Kidney Disease Program.

The commission consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor. Of the 12 members, 3 are individuals appointed at the discretion of the Governor who are medical specialists or other patient care providers in nephrology or kidney transplants and who do not have any direct ownership in renal dialysis or kidney transplant centers that do business with the State.

In addition, the Governor must appoint four individuals from lists of names submitted by specified organizations. The Kidney Foundation of Maryland, the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland (MedChi) must each submit to the Governor a list of at least three names, as specified. The Governor must appoint one individual from each list. If, however, a list is not submitted to the Governor, as specified, the Governor may appoint an individual without the list.

Other members of the commission include one individual from the Renal Administrators Association; three individuals who are laypersons to the field of medicine; and one renal social worker nominated by the Maryland Chapter of the Council of Nephrology Social Workers or the National Capital Area Chapter of the Council of Nephrology Social Workers. Commission members serve four-year terms.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2019  
sb/jc Third Reader - March 7, 2019

---

Analysis by: Elizabeth J. Allison

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510