

# HOUSE BILL 524

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By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Benson, Bronrott, Burns, Costa, Donoghue, Hammen, Hubbard, Kach, Kullen, Lawton, Lee, Mizeur, Montgomery, Morhaim, Oaks, Pendergrass, Proctor, Stein, F. Turner, ~~and Waldstreicher~~ Waldstreicher, Kipke, Tarrant, V. Turner, and Pena-Melnyk**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2007

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2007

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Cultural Competency and Workforce Development for Mental**  
3 **Health Professionals**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Mental Health Transformation Working Group, in  
5 collaboration with the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Office of  
6 Minority Health and Health Disparities, to convene a Workgroup on Cultural  
7 Competency and Workforce Development for Mental Health Professionals;  
8 requiring the Workgroup to include representatives from certain groups;  
9 providing for the purpose and goals of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup  
10 to develop certain recommendations; requiring the Workgroup to submit a  
11 certain report to the ~~Governor and~~ Governor, the General Assembly, and a  
12 certain committee on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of  
13 this Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Cultural Competency and  
14 Workforce Development for Mental Health Professionals.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That:

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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           (a)    The Mental Health Transformation Working Group, in collaboration with  
2 the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Office of Minority Health and Health  
3 Disparities in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shall convene a  
4 Workgroup on Cultural Competency and Workforce Development for Mental Health  
5 Professionals.

6           (b)    The Workgroup shall include representatives from:

7                   (1)    the Senate of Maryland and House of Delegates of Maryland;

8                   (2)    the relevant professional licensing boards;

9                   (3)    mental health care provider groups;

10                  (4)    consumer groups with knowledge or experience with mental health  
11 care issues or health care for minority populations;

12                  (5)    advocacy groups with knowledge or experience with mental health  
13 care issues or health care for minority populations; ~~and~~

14                  (6)    any interest group or stakeholder with knowledge or involvement  
15 in the issues addressed by the Workgroup;

16                  (7)    the Statewide Commission on the Shortage in the Healthcare  
17 Workforce;

18                  (8)    the Governor's Workforce Investment Board or other groups  
19 working on health workforce shortage issues; and

20                  (9)    State and other organizations that represent minority health  
21 professionals.

22           (c)    The purposes and goals of the Workgroup shall be to examine:

23                   (1)    barriers to access to appropriate mental health services provided  
24 by health care professionals who are culturally competent to address the needs of the  
25 State's diverse population;

26                   (2)    barriers to licensure or certification of foreign-born and  
27 foreign-trained mental health professionals;

1           (3) initiatives from other states for the facilitation of licensure or  
2 certification of foreign-born and foreign-trained mental health professionals;

3           (4) mental health workforce shortages and potential strategies to use  
4 foreign-born and foreign-trained mental health professionals to alleviate shortages;  
5 and

6           (5) options for enhancing the cultural competency of currently licensed  
7 and certified mental health professionals.

8           (d) The Workgroup shall develop recommendations regarding:

9           (1) the availability of specific options to facilitate the licensure or  
10 certification of foreign-born and foreign-trained mental health professionals within  
11 the limitations of State and federal law;

12           (2) the development of training programs to assist foreign-born and  
13 foreign-trained mental health professionals to prepare for and pass required licensure  
14 or certification examinations;

15           (3) the development of specific training and educational materials and  
16 programs to enhance the cultural competency of all mental health professionals;

17           (4) ~~changes to the advantages and disadvantages of changing~~ the  
18 current licensing and certification requirements for relevant professional licensing  
19 boards; and

20           (5) any other initiatives that will accomplish enhanced access to  
21 culturally sensitive and competent mental health services.

22           (e) The Workgroup shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
23 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the  
24 General Assembly and the Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services, on or  
25 before November 1, 2007.

26           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,  
28 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
29 abrogated and of no further force and effect.