

SENATE BILL 719

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CF HB 812

By: ~~Senators Zucker and Augustine~~, Augustine, Beidle, Benson, Feldman, Hayes, Hershey, Jennings, Kelley, Klausmeier, Kramer, and Ready ~~Ready, and Smith~~

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2021
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments
Read second time: February 25, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Maryland Department of Health~~ **2-1-1 Maryland – Mental Health Services**
3 **Phone Call Program**
4 **(The Thomas Bloom Raskin Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with
6 2-1-1 Maryland, to make certain recommendations relating to the establishment of
7 a certain opt-in mental health services phone call program; authorizing the
8 Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the Department to
9 carry out certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to 2-1-1 Maryland
10 and mental health services.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Health – General
13 Section 24-1204
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 24-1204.

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 Department shall, in consultation with 2-1-1 Maryland, as appropriate:

2 (1) Maintain public information available from State agencies, programs,
3 and departments that provide health and human services;

4 (2) Support projects and activities that further the development of 2-1-1
5 Maryland;

6 (3) Examine and make recommendations to maximize the use of
7 information technology in making 2-1-1 services available throughout the State;

8 (4) Evaluate the performance of each 2-1-1 Maryland call center;

9 (5) Make recommendations to 2-1-1 Maryland regarding the quality of
10 service provided by call centers or the performance of call centers when issues related to
11 service quality and performance are presented to the Department; [and]

12 (6) Make recommendations regarding corrective action to be taken by a call
13 center, as appropriate; AND

14 (7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO 2-1-1 MARYLAND REGARDING
15 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPT-IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PHONE CALL
16 PROGRAM THAT:

17 (I) REQUIRES A CALL CENTER TO CALL INDIVIDUALS WHO
18 HAVE OPTED IN TO THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PHONE CALL PROGRAM ON A
19 PERIODIC BASIS, AS DETERMINED BY 2-1-1 MARYLAND; AND

20 (II) ATTEMPTS TO CONNECT INDIVIDUALS TO A PROVIDER OF
21 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IF THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS TO SPEAK TO A MENTAL
22 HEALTH PROVIDER DURING A CALL WITH 2-1-1 MARYLAND.

23 (B) THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN
24 APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OUT
25 SUBSECTION (A)(7) OF THIS SECTION.

26 ~~(C)~~ (C) On or before December 31, 2005, and every year thereafter, the
27 Department, in consultation with 2-1-1 Maryland, shall report to the Governor and,
28 subject to § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the
29 activities performed under subsection (a) of this section.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 ~~October~~ July 1, 2021.