

# HOUSE BILL 657

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By: **Delegates Guyton, Forbes, Jackson, Krimm, J. Lewis, Luedtke, Rose, Ruth, Saab, Shoemaker, Terrasa, and Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Standardized Behavioral Health Screenings for Students –**  
3 **Development and Implementation**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community  
5 Supports to develop, in consultation with certain stakeholders, guidelines for  
6 developing a standardized behavioral health screening to identify students with  
7 behavioral health services needs; requiring each behavioral health services  
8 coordinator to develop and implement a standardized behavioral health screening  
9 based on the guidelines developed by the Consortium; and generally relating to the  
10 development of a standardized behavioral health screening for public school  
11 students.

12 BY renumbering

13 Article – Education  
14 Section 7–447.1(i) through (o), respectively  
15 to be Section 7–447.1(j) through (p), respectively  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

19 Article – Education  
20 Section 7–447(b) and 7–447.1(a)(1) and (4)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

24 Article – Education  
25 Section 7–447(c)  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to  
 2 Article – Education  
 3 Section 7–447.1(i)  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 7 That Section(s) 7–447.1(i) through (o), respectively, of Article – Education of the Annotated  
 8 Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–447.1(j) through (p), respectively.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
 10 as follows:

11 **Article – Education**

12 7–447.

13 (b) Each local school system shall appoint a behavioral health services  
 14 coordinator.

15 (c) **(1)** In addition to the requirements under Subtitle 15 of this title, each  
 16 behavioral health services coordinator shall:

17 **[(1)] (I)** Coordinate existing behavioral health services and referral  
 18 procedures for behavioral health services within the local school system, including through  
 19 a coordinated community supports partnership;

20 **[(2)] (II)** Working in collaboration with the local health department, the  
 21 local department of social services, and other local entities that provide behavioral health  
 22 services, including a community supports partnership, ensure that a student who is  
 23 referred for behavioral health services obtains the necessary services in a timely manner;

24 **[(3)] (III)** Maximize external funding for behavioral health and  
 25 wraparound services;

26 **[(4)] (IV)** Have at a minimum a master’s degree and behavioral health  
 27 training experience in schools;

28 **[(5)] (V)** Provide the required behavioral health training under § 6–122 of  
 29 this article; and

30 **[(6)] (VI)** Develop and implement a standardized screening to identify  
 31 students with behavioral health services needs using an evidence–based measurement  
 32 approach **BASED ON THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7–447.1 OF THIS**  
 33 **SUBTITLE.**

1           **(2) THE STANDARDIZED SCREENING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
2 **(1)(VI) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF**  
3 **EACH STUDENT WHEN THE STUDENT ENROLLS FOR SCHOOL AND EVERY YEAR**  
4 **THEREAFTER WHILE THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

5 7-447.1.

6           (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

7           (4) "Consortium" means the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated  
8 Community Supports established under subsection (b) of this section.

9           **(I) (1) THE CONSORTIUM SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR**  
10 **DEVELOPING A STANDARDIZED SCREENING TO IDENTIFY STUDENTS WITH**  
11 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES NEEDS.**

12           **(2) THE GUIDELINES SHALL BE:**

13           **(I) DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING**  
14 **STAKEHOLDERS SELECTED BY THE CONSORTIUM:**

15                           1. ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND OPTOMETRIC  
16 ASSOCIATION;

17                           2. ONE MEMBER OF THE STATE TRAUMATIC BRAIN  
18 INJURY ADVISORY BOARD;

19                           3. ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND EDUCATION  
20 COALITION;

21                           4. ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
22 SCHOOL HEALTH NURSES;

23                           5. ONE MEMBER OF THE DIVISION OF EARLY  
24 INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT;

25                           6. ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF  
26 AUDIOLOGY;

27                           7. ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
28 NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES;

1  
2 **8. ONE EXPERT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND DEVELOPMENT; AND**

3 **9. ONE EXPERT ON DATA PROTECTION;**

4 **(II) DEVELOPED USING AN EVIDENCE-BASED MEASUREMENT**  
5 **APPROACH; AND**

6 **(III) UPDATED EVERY 5 YEARS.**

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2022.