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Health and Government Operations
Committee

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Public Health and
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Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

**HB0922 Behavioral Health Administration - Behavioral Health Program Relocation -
Regulations**

Health Committee

Friday, February 24, 2026

What This Bill Does

HB0922 simplifies the process for behavioral health programs to move from one location to another. Rather than forcing these programs to undergo a repetitive licensing process, it requires the Behavioral Health Administration to establish a "fast-track" system. Under these new rules, programs can reuse paperwork they've already filed and can even receive temporary approval to operate at a new site while the final details are being sorted out. Additionally, the state will be able to reward programs that have a history of following the rules by using their clean regulatory record as a reason to speed up the relocation even further. Ultimately, the bill ensures that these essential services can move efficiently without long gaps in care for the people who rely on them.

Why We Need This Bill

Currently, an established behavioral health provider is required to complete a *new* provider application and is placed in the same queue as new applicants. Consequently, they are forced to maintain two offices and pay duplicate lease payments for an undetermined period — an unnecessary and costly burden. This delay results in months of double operational costs, straining resources that could be better allocated to client care. The resulting operational uncertainty and excessive administrative burdens jeopardize providers' ability to ensure uninterrupted services for vulnerable clients. Streamlining this process is crucial to support providers and ensure client access to essential behavioral health services.

I respectfully ask the Committee to vote favorably on **HB0922**.