

# SENATE BILL 896

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By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental  
4 Health Treatment; providing for the purpose, composition, chair, and staffing of the  
5 Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain  
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the  
7 Commission to study and make recommendations on certain matters regarding  
8 student behavioral health and mental health treatment; requiring the Commission  
9 to reports its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General  
10 Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
11 generally relating to the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental  
12 Health Treatment.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That:

15 (a) There is a Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health  
16 Treatment.

17 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to study, evaluate, update, and revise  
18 guidelines for student behavioral health and mental health treatment and practices in  
19 general, and including school-based health centers.

20 (c) The Commission consists of the following members:

21 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
22 the Senate;

23 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
24 House;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) one representative of the Maryland Mental Health Association,  
2 designated by the Secretary of Health; and

3 (4) the following members, designated by the State Superintendent of  
4 Schools:

5 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Student  
6 Councils;

7 (ii) one representative of the Public School Superintendent's  
8 Association;

9 (iii) one representative of the State Board of Education;

10 (iv) one representative who is a school administrator;

11 (v) one representative who is employed in a school-based health  
12 center;

13 (vi) one representative who is employed as a school nurse; and

14 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Association of School  
15 Psychologists.

16 (d) The Behavioral Health Administration shall provide staff for the Commission.

17 (e) (1) The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

18 (2) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation as a  
19 member of the Commission, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the  
20 Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21 (f) The Commission shall:

22 (1) study behavioral health treatment and practices for students dealing  
23 with behavioral health and mental health issues, including scope of practice, age of consent  
24 for services, types of service, and duration of treatment;

25 (2) make recommendations on actions necessary to improve the current  
26 practices of student behavioral health treatment, including school-based health centers;

27 (3) revise guidelines for student behavioral health treatment and practices  
28 in school-based health centers; and

29 (4) research ways to coordinate school-based practices with health care  
30 provider practices to improving treatment available for students that need behavioral

1 health or mental health treatment.

2 (g) On or before December 1, 2020, and December 1, 2021, the Commission shall  
3 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257  
4 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
6 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022,  
7 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
8 of no further force and effect.