CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment; providing for the purpose, composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations on certain matters regarding student behavioral health and mental health treatment; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment.

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

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

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

(c) The Commission consists of the following members:

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.
one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

one representative of the Maryland Mental Health Association, designated by the Secretary of Health; and

the following members, designated by the State Superintendent of Schools:

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

(ii) one representative of the Public School Superintendents’ Association;

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

(iv) one representative who is a school administrator;

(v) one representative who is employed in a school-based health center of the Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care;

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

(vii) one representative of the Maryland Association of School Psychologists;

(viii) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers;

(ix) one representative from a community–partnered school behavioral health services program; and

(x) two representatives from different organizations that provide behavioral health services primarily to racial or ethnic minorities.

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

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

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

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

2. investigate the unique behavioral health needs of students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds dealing with behavioral health and mental health issues, including differences by student racial and ethnic background in the provision of behavioral health services, scope of practice, types of service, and duration of treatment;

3. make recommendations on actions necessary to improve the current practices of student behavioral health treatment, including actions specific to improvements for students who belong to racial and ethnic minority groups and improvements for service from school–based health centers;

4. revise guidelines for student behavioral health treatment and practices in school–based health centers; and

5. research ways to coordinate school–based practices with health care provider practices to improve treatment available for students who need behavioral health or mental health treatment.

On or before December 1, 2021 July 1, 2022, and December 1, 2022, the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.