

# HOUSE BILL 915

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By: **Delegate Amprey**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health**  
3 **Professionals**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other  
5 Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals; providing for the composition, chair,  
6 and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from  
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
8 expenses; requiring the Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding  
9 certain mental health professionals and certain students in the State who are Black,  
10 Latino, or otherwise underrepresented in the mental health profession; requiring the  
11 Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the  
12 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this  
13 Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other  
14 Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals.

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

17 (a) There is a Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental  
18 Health Professionals.

19 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

20 (1) the President of Bowie State University, or the President's designee;

21 (2) the President of Coppin State University, or the President's designee;

22 (3) the President of Morgan State University, or the President's designee;

23 (4) the President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore, or the  
24 President's designee; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Health:

2 (i) one representative each from at least three different hospital  
3 networks in the State that primarily serve Black or Latino communities;

4 (ii) three representatives from the mental health profession in the  
5 State; and

6 (iii) three individuals who provide social services in the State.

7 (c) The Secretary of Health shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.

8 (d) The University System of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Health  
9 jointly shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

10 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

11 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

12 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
13 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

14 (f) The Workgroup shall:

15 (1) identify and study the shortage of mental health professionals in the  
16 State who are Black, Latino, or otherwise underrepresented in the mental health  
17 profession; and

18 (2) assess and make recommendations on incentives or other methods to  
19 increase the number of:

20 (i) students who are Black, Latino, or otherwise underrepresented  
21 in the mental health profession who study at an institution of higher education in the State  
22 to be mental health professionals; and

23 (ii) mental health professionals who are Black, Latino, or otherwise  
24 underrepresented in the mental health profession who provide mental health services in  
25 the State, especially in underserved communities.

26 (g) On or before July 1, 2022, the Workgroup shall report its findings and  
27 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
28 Government Article, the General Assembly.

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

1 of no further force and effect.