A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals

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

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

That:

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

(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

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

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

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

(4) the President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore, or the President’s designee; and
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(5) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Health:

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

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

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

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

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

(e) A member of the Workgroup:

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

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

(f) The Workgroup shall:

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

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

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

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

(g) On or before July 1, 2022, the Workgroup shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor 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.