

SENATE BILL 161

F2, J1
SB 1015/20 – EHE

(PRE-FILED)

1lr1134
CF HB 244

By: **Senator Eckardt**

Requested: October 26, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in
4 Higher Education; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to submit an interim and a final report to certain committees of the General
9 Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher
11 Education.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher
15 Education.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) two representatives of the University System of Maryland, designated
22 by the Chancellor of the System;

23 (4) two representatives of private nonprofit institutions of higher

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 education, designated by the President of the Maryland Independent College and
2 University Association;

3 (5) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland,
4 designated by the Board of Directors of the Association;

5 (6) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the National Alliance on
6 Mental Illness, designated by the Board of Directors of the Chapter;

7 (7) three members, designated by the Chancellor of the University System
8 of Maryland, each of whom is a family member of an individual who is:

9 (i) enrolled in an institution of higher education on the date the
10 member is designated; or

11 (ii) a former student at an institution of higher education with
12 experience using campus mental health services; and

13 (8) the following members appointed by the Governor:

14 (i) one psychiatrist; and

15 (ii) one nurse psychotherapist experienced in providing mental
16 health services.

17 (c) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House
18 jointly shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

19 (d) (1) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the
20 Task Force.

21 (2) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland shall appoint an
22 individual to assist the Commission with staffing.

23 (e) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

27 (f) The Task Force shall:

28 (1) study the policies and procedures adopted by institutions of higher
29 education in the State regarding access to mental health care and the prevention and
30 treatment of mental illness in students;

1 (2) examine the challenges for institutions of higher education in meeting
2 the demand for mental health services;

3 (3) review best practices for accessing off-campus mental health services;

4 (4) review best practices for, and barriers to, the implementation of
5 counseling services, including crisis, personal, mental health, sexual violence, and
6 substance abuse counseling;

7 (5) review and identify the best models for accessing mental health
8 services, including consideration of stand-alone centers, centers with integrated student
9 health services, comprehensive services, case management, and crisis resources;

10 (6) identify concerns in rural areas and workforce shortage areas;

11 (7) study any other matters the Task Force considers appropriate; and

12 (8) make recommendations regarding:

13 (i) ways to reduce costs and barriers to providing access to mental
14 health services on campus;

15 (ii) the use of telemedicine and video conferencing;

16 (iii) the use of hotlines and other means to disseminate information
17 to students related to mental health services on and off campus, including information
18 concerning availability and fees;

19 (iv) the implementation of general mental health counseling services
20 and specialized counseling services; and

21 (v) any other matters the Task Force considers appropriate.

22 (g) (1) On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force shall submit an interim
23 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
24 the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House
25 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance
26 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

27 (2) On or before December 1, 2022, the Task Force shall submit a final
28 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
29 the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House
30 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance
31 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
33 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 31, 2023,

1 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
2 of no further force and effect.