

HOUSE BILL 916

F2, F1

2lr2016

By: **Delegate Reznik**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Programs for Behavioral Health Professionals in Primary**
3 **and Secondary Schools – Requirements and Grant Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring public institutions of higher education with certain
5 behavioral health programs to offer courses in a certain manner and coordinate with
6 other public institutions of higher education; establishing the Behavioral Health
7 Professionals in Schools Quality and Diversity Grant Program; and generally
8 relating to higher education programs for behavioral health professionals in schools.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 15–134; and 17–501 through 17–504 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle

12 5. Behavioral Health Professionals in Schools Quality and Diversity Grant
13 Program”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Education**

19 **15–134.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES” MEANS**
21 **TRAUMA–INFORMED PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR**
22 **THE SOCIAL–EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF**
23 **STUDENTS, INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.**

24 **(B) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFERS A**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 PROGRAM TO PREPARE PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
2 SERVICES, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN
3 PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, SHALL:

4 (1) OFFER COURSES IN THE PROGRAM IN A MANNER THAT MAXIMIZES
5 THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF STUDENTS WHO MAY PARTICIPATE, INCLUDING
6 STUDENTS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING FROM ONE CAREER TO A CAREER IN
7 PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS;
8 AND

9 (2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, COORDINATE WITH OTHER
10 PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER SIMILAR PROGRAMS
11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MORE EFFICIENTLY EXPANDING COURSEWORK AND
12 TRAINING FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL
13 HEALTH SERVICES IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

14 **SUBTITLE 5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN SCHOOLS QUALITY AND**
15 **DIVERSITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 **17-501.**

17 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (B) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
20 PROVIDES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING A:

21 (1) A THERAPIST;

22 (2) A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST;

23 (3) A SOCIAL WORKER; AND

24 (4) A COUNSELOR.

25 (C) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES" MEANS TRAUMA-INFORMED
26 PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR THE
27 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS,
28 INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

29 (D) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN
30 SCHOOLS QUALITY AND DIVERSITY GRANT PROGRAM.

1 **17-502.**

2 (A) THERE IS A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN SCHOOLS
3 QUALITY AND DIVERSITY GRANT PROGRAM.

4 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST INSTITUTIONS OF
5 HIGHER EDUCATION IN:

6 (1) DEVELOPING EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE STUDENTS
7 TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL
8 SETTING THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS; AND

9 (2) AIDING STUDENTS FROM HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED
10 POPULATIONS TO PREPARE FOR AND ACHIEVE THE RELEVANT CERTIFICATION TO
11 BECOME PROFESSIONALS WHO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN
12 PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

13 **17-503.**

14 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM BY AWARDING
15 GRANTS:

16 (1) TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT
17 PROVIDE EDUCATION TO INDIVIDUALS TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
18 IN A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL;

19 (2) ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS; AND

20 (3) IN A MANNER THAT SERVES THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, AS
21 SPECIFIED UNDER § 17-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AND MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF
22 THIS SUBTITLE.

23 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADOPT GUIDELINES FOR
24 AWARDING GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

25 (1) PRIORITIZING THE AWARDING OF GRANTS TO HISTORICALLY
26 BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
27 THAT EDUCATE HIGH PROPORTIONS OF HISPANIC STUDENTS AND THAT HAVE A
28 RECORD OF PREPARING DIVERSE AND HIGH-QUALITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
29 PROFESSIONALS IN THE STATE; AND

30 (2) ENCOURAGING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO EXPAND
31 EXISTING EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL

1 HEALTH SERVICES IN A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL SETTING BY:

2 (I) RECRUITING AND ENROLLING NONTRADITIONAL
3 STUDENTS, INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH TRAINING OR BACKGROUNDS THAT ARE
4 NOT IN THE SUBJECT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH;

5 (II) OFFERING COURSES THROUGH A VARIETY OF METHODS OF
6 INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING ONLINE COURSES AND SUMMER COURSES; AND

7 (III) PARTNERING WITH OTHER ENTITIES TO OFFER EDUCATION
8 AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS, APPLICABLE
9 LICENSING BOARDS, AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
10 IN SCHOOLS.

11 17-504.

12 FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2022.