

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 637

(Senator Augustine)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services - Expansion
(Behavioral Health System Modernization Act)

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to review and consider options for adopting existing programs or services to provide wraparound services to children and youth with primary substance use disorders. Further, by December 1, 2023, MDH must review current eligibility requirements for the 1915(i) Waiver, and mental health case management generally, and submit recommendations for expanding eligibility and enrollment in these programs to the General Assembly. The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), in consultation with carriers and other specified stakeholders, must study operational issues related to commercial carrier reimbursement of behavioral health clinical peer specialists and crisis response services and recommend how to address these issues. By November 15, 2022, MIA must report study fundings and recommendations to the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH and MIA can complete the required reviews and study, respectively, and submit their recommendations using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System

Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services must (1) operate a statewide network utilizing existing resources and coordinating interjurisdictional services to develop efficient and effective crisis response systems to serve all individuals in the State, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week; (2) provide skilled clinical intervention to help prevent suicides, homicides, unnecessary hospitalizations, and arrests or detention, and to reduce dangerous or threatening situations involving individuals in need of behavioral health services; and (3) respond quickly and effectively to community crisis situations.

Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program

Chapter 209 of 2018 established a Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program in MDH to provide funds to local jurisdictions to establish and expand community behavioral health crisis response systems. The Governor was required to include the following appropriations in the State operating budget for the program: (1) \$3.0 million in fiscal 2020; (2) \$4.0 million in fiscal 2021; and (3) \$5.0 million in fiscal 2022. Chapters 755 and 756 of 2021 expand the grant program, extend the term of the \$5.0 million mandated appropriation through fiscal 2025, and beginning in fiscal 2023, require at least one-third of the mandated appropriation be used to award competitive grants for mobile crisis teams.

1915(i) Waiver

Under the 1915(i) Waiver, Medicaid provides a full range of somatic and behavioral health benefits as well as other specialized services (including mental health targeted case management) to children and youth who meet applicable medical necessity criteria.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 935 (Delegate Bagnall) - Health and Government Operations and Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Health Benefit Exchange; Maryland Insurance Administration; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
fnu2/ljm

First Reader - February 22, 2022
Revised - Budget Information - April 6, 2022
Revised - Correction - April 6, 2022
Third Reader - April 9, 2022
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 9, 2022

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