

HOUSE BILL 615

J2

3lr2199

By: **Delegate Amprey**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other**
3 **Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals – Extension of Dates**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the reporting and termination dates for the Workgroup on
5 Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented
6 Behavioral Health Professionals; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Black,
7 Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral
8 Health Professionals.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Chapter 318 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022

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

13 **Chapter 318 of the Acts of 2022**

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

16 (a) There is a Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and
17 Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals.

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 (i) one representative each from at least three different hospital
5 networks in the State that primarily serve Black, Latino, or Asian American Pacific
6 Islander communities;

7 (ii) three representatives from the behavioral health profession in
8 the State;

9 (iii) three individuals who provide social services in the State; and

10 (iv) at least two but not more than four representatives of
11 organizations, networks, or associations of behavioral health professionals that:

12 1. are composed of a majority of Black, Latino, Asian
13 American Pacific Islander, or other underrepresented behavioral health professionals; and

14 2. primarily work to represent and support Black, Latino,
15 Asian American Pacific Islander, or other underrepresented behavioral health
16 professionals.

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

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

20 (e) A member of the Workgroup or any subgroup established under subsection (g)
21 of this section:

22 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup or
23 subgroup; but

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

26 (f) The Workgroup shall:

27 (1) identify and study the shortage of behavioral health professionals in
28 the State who are Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, or otherwise
29 underrepresented in the behavioral health profession; and

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

1 (i) students who are Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander,
2 or otherwise underrepresented in the behavioral health profession who study at an
3 institution of higher education in the State to be behavioral health professionals; and

4 (ii) behavioral health professionals who are Black, Latino, Asian
5 American Pacific Islander, or otherwise underrepresented in the behavioral health
6 profession who provide behavioral health services in the State, especially in underserved
7 communities.

8 (g) (1) The Workgroup may establish a subgroup within the Workgroup to
9 assist the Workgroup in carrying out its duties, including by conducting research and
10 producing reports.

11 (2) A subgroup established under paragraph (1) of this subsection may
12 include an individual who is not a member of the Workgroup, including a representative of
13 an insurance carrier or any other relevant expert.

14 (h) On or before July 1, ~~[2023]~~ **2024**, the Workgroup shall report its findings
15 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
16 Government Article, the General Assembly.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~[2]~~ **3** years and, at the end of June 30,
19 ~~[2024]~~ **2025**, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
22 1, 2023.