

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 615

(Delegate Amprey)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other
Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals - Extension of Dates

This bill extends by one year the reporting and termination dates for the Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals. The workgroup must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by July 1, 2024. The workgroup terminates June 30, 2025. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2022, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional expense reimbursements for members of the workgroup or a subgroup of the workgroup and staffing costs for the University System of Maryland (USM) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) from extending the workgroup are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: USM and MDH must jointly provide staff for the workgroup. The workgroup may establish a subgroup within the workgroup to assist in carrying out the workgroup's duties, including conducting research and producing reports. A subgroup may include an individual who is not a member of the workgroup. A member of the workgroup

or any established subgroup may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under standard State travel regulations.

The workgroup must identify and study the shortage of behavioral health professionals in the State who are Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, or otherwise underrepresented in the behavioral health profession. The workgroup must also assess and make recommendations on incentives, or other methods to increase the number of (1) specified or underrepresented students who study at an institution of higher education in the State to be behavioral health professionals and (2) specified or underrepresented behavioral health professionals who provide behavioral health services in the State, especially in underserved communities.

The workgroup must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2024.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2023
km/jc Third Reader - March 3, 2023

Analysis by: Jamiko S Rose

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510