

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1107
(Delegate Chisholm)
Ways and Means

**Anne Arundel County - School-Age Children Mental Health Support System
Pilot Program**

This bill establishes the School-Age Children Mental Health Support System Pilot Program in Anne Arundel County, which must be conducted during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. A school-age child may participate in the program only through self-referral. The Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc. (AACMHA) must participate and designate certain staff, as specified. In fiscal 2025 and 2026, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an amount sufficient to fund two full-time behavioral health care coordinators necessary to implement the program. If sufficient funding is not appropriated for a fiscal year, AACMHA is not required to implement the program during that fiscal year. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2024. General fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$150,000 in FY 2025 and 2026 to fund staff as specified. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	150,000	150,000	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County revenues and expenditures increase by \$150,000 in FY 2025 and 2026 (with funds distributed to AACMHA) to hire staff to implement the program.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The program's purpose is to help implement the goals and recommendations of the Anne Arundel Mental Health Task Force with a focus on providing mental and behavioral health supports to school-age children in Anne Arundel County through the:

- identification of the contributing factors to the increase in mental and behavioral health needs of students;
- identification of proactive measures and best practices to address mental and behavioral health needs of school-age children;
- coordination of services and communication among the school system, county government, and local health providers; and
- improved delivery of services to school-age children and their families.

AACMHA must participate in the program to facilitate coordination and communication of services to school-age participants and must designate two full-time behavioral health coordinators to coordinate care for school-age children in need of mental health and behavioral health supports.

By August 1, 2024, and August 1, 2025, AACMHA must submit a specified report on the effectiveness of the program to the members of the Anne Arundel County Delegation and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Current Law: Under Chapter 30 of 2018, by September 1, 2018, each local school system must appoint a mental health services coordinator to coordinate existing mental health services and referral procedures within the local school system. Working with specified local entities, the coordinator must (1) ensure that a student who is referred for mental health services obtains the necessary services; (2) maximize external funding for mental health and wraparound services, as defined; and (3) develop plans for delivering behavioral health and wraparound services to students who exhibit specified behaviors of concern. Grants from the Safe Schools Fund may be used to develop plans for delivering mental health and wraparound services.

AACMHA is a private, nonprofit corporation that serves as a system manager for local public behavioral health services. In partnership with the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, AACMHA is responsible for planning, managing, and monitoring public behavioral health services to create an ideal continuum of care for its residents.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an amount sufficient to fund two full-time behavioral health care coordinators necessary to

implement the program. However, the bill's language does not meet the requirements necessary to establish a mandated appropriation. Generally, any legislation mandating funding must include either an exact dollar figure or a funding formula that makes it possible to compute the level of funding required.

AACMHA advises that the cost of two full-time behavioral health coordinators (including salaries and fringe benefits) is approximately \$150,000 annually.

Additional Comments: The initial reporting requirement applies before the program is operational; the second reporting requirement likely then applies to the first year of program operations.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Anne Arundel County; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Department of Health; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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