

# HOUSE BILL 829

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By: **Delegates Alston, Acevero, Bagnall, Feldmark, Guzzone, S. Johnson, R. Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, M. Morgan, Taveras, White Holland, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Service Sector Employees – Mental Health First Aid Training**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, subject to the  
4 limitations of its budget, to provide a virtual mental health first aid training program  
5 for service sector employees; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, subject  
6 to the limitations of its budget and in coordination with the Maryland Department  
7 of Labor and the Public Service Commission, to develop a public awareness campaign  
8 related to the training program; and generally relating to mental health first aid  
9 training.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General

12 Section 13–5201 through 13–5203 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 52. Mental  
13 Health First Aid Training for Service Sector Employees”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2023 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Public Utilities

18 Section 10–101(a), (l), and (m)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Health – General**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





1 (A) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT  
2 SHALL PROVIDE A VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
3 SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE.

4 (B) THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:

5 (1) A LEVEL OF DETAIL SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF  
6 THE TRAINING ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, BUT BE  
7 MODULAR AND SUCCINCT SO AS TO BE PRACTICAL FOR SERVICE SECTOR  
8 EMPLOYEES TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM; AND

9 (2) IN THE CONTEXT OF A SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEE'S  
10 EMPLOYMENT:

11 (i) HOW TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO SIGNS OF MENTAL  
12 ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS; AND

13 (ii) A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
14 SERVICES AND CRISIS SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE SERVICE SECTOR  
15 EMPLOYEE OR AN INDIVIDUAL IN DISTRESS ENCOUNTERED BY THE SERVICE SECTOR  
16 EMPLOYEE.

17 (C) THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL ADDRESS  
18 THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

19 (1) INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY;

20 (2) INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AN  
21 INDIVIDUAL IN DISTRESS;

22 (3) INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND SELF-HELP  
23 RESOURCES; AND

24 (4) DECREASING STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH  
25 CONCERNS.

26 13-5203.

27 (A) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT, IN  
28 COORDINATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE PUBLIC  
29 SERVICE COMMISSION, SHALL CONDUCT A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO  
30 INCREASE AWARENESS AMONG SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES OF THE AVAILABILITY

1 OF VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR SERVICE SECTOR  
2 EMPLOYEES.

3 (B) THE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MAY INCLUDE:

4 (1) ADVERTISEMENTS; AND

5 (2) COMMUNICATIONS TO LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS.

6 Article – Public Utilities

7 10–101.

8 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (l) “Transportation network company” means a company that operates in the  
10 State using a digital network to connect passengers to transportation network operators or  
11 transportation network partners for transportation network services.

12 (m) “Transportation network operator”, “transportation network partner”, or  
13 “transportation network driver” means an individual who:

14 (1) has been issued a transportation network operator’s license, or is  
15 otherwise authorized, by the Commission to provide transportation network services;

16 (2) receives, through a transportation network company’s digital network  
17 application, a connection to a potential passenger to transport the passenger between  
18 points chosen by the passenger in exchange for the payment of a fee to the transportation  
19 network company; and

20 (3) uses a motor vehicle that is owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for  
21 use by the individual and is approved for use in providing transportation network services  
22 by the Commission.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2024.