

HOUSE BILL 1048

J1

4lr0154
CF SB 212

By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health)**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health**
3 **Care Treatment and Access – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership and terms of members of the Behavioral
5 Health Advisory Council; requiring the Commission on Behavioral Health Care
6 Treatment and Access to meet jointly with the Council; requiring the Commission,
7 in coordination with the Council, to make recommendations regarding the financing
8 structure and quality oversight necessary to integrate somatic and behavioral health
9 services in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; and generally relating to the
10 Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care
11 Treatment and Access.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 7.5–301 and 13–4801(a) and (c)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2023 Replacement Volume)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Health – General
19 Section 7.5–303, 7.5–305, 13–4802, 13–4803(f), 13–4805, 13–4806, and 13–4807
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

24 **Article – Health – General**

25 7.5–301.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 In this subtitle, "Council" means the Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

2 7.5–303.

3 (a) (1) The Council consists of the following members:

4 (i) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
5 President of the Senate;

6 (ii) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
7 of the House;

8 (iii) Five representatives of the Department, including:

9 1. The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee;

10 2. The Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health, or the
11 Deputy Secretary's designee;

12 3. The [Director of the Behavioral Health Administration, or
13 the Director's designee] **DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,**
14 **OR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

15 4. The Executive Director of the Maryland Health Benefit
16 Exchange, or the Executive Director's designee; and

17 5. The Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing, or the
18 Deputy Secretary's designee;

19 (iv) The Secretary of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;

20 (v) The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
21 designee;

22 (vi) The Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

23 (vii) The Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
24 Secretary's designee;

25 (viii) The Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

26 (ix) The Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

27 (x) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
28 Secretary's designee;

1 (xi) The [Deputy Director of the Division of Children and Youth of
2 the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, or the Deputy
3 Director's designee] **SECRETARY OF LABOR, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

4 (xii) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime
5 Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, or the Executive Director's designee;

6 (xiii) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and
7 Hard of Hearing, or the Executive Director's designee;

8 (xiv) The Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's
9 designee;

10 (xv) Two representatives of the State Superintendent of Schools, or
11 the Superintendent's designee, and the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of
12 Rehabilitation Services, or the Assistant State Superintendent's designee;

13 (xvi) Two representatives of the Maryland Judiciary, a District Court
14 judge, and a circuit court judge, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of
15 Maryland;

16 (xvii) The [President of the Maryland Association of Core Service
17 Agencies, or the President's designee] **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND
18 ASSOCIATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES, OR THE EXECUTIVE
19 DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

20 (xviii) The President of the Maryland Association of County Health
21 Officers, or the President's designee;

22 (xix) Four representatives from county behavioral health advisory
23 councils, one from each region of the State;

24 (xx) One representative, appointed by the Secretary of Health, from
25 each of the following organizations:

26 1. Community Behavioral Health Association;

27 2. [Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic,
28 University of Maryland Carey School of Law] **MARYLAND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON
29 PROBLEM GAMBLING;**

30 3. Maryland Addictions Director's Council;

31 4. Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid
32 Dependence;

HOUSE BILL 1048

- 1 5. Maryland Black Mental Health Alliance;
- 2 6. Maryland Coalition of Families;
- 3 7. [Maryland Disability Law Center] **DISABILITY RIGHTS**
- 4 **MARYLAND**;
- 5 8. Maryland Recovery Organization Connecting
- 6 Communities;
- 7 9. Mental Health Association of Maryland;
- 8 10. National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland;
- 9 11. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of
- 10 Maryland;
- 11 12. On Our Own of Maryland; and
- 12 13. Maryland Association of Boards of Education; and

13 (xxi) Two individuals representing the mental health and substance

14 use disorder treatment community, appointed by the Governor from each of the following:

- 15 1. Academic or research professionals who are not State
- 16 employees;
- 17 2. Medical professionals;
- 18 3. Individuals formerly or currently in receipt of behavioral
- 19 health services;
- 20 4. Family members of individuals with mental health or
- 21 substance use disorders;
- 22 5. A parent of a young child with behavioral health disorders;
- 23 6. A youth with a behavioral health disorder who is between
- 24 the ages of 16 and 25 years; and
- 25 7. Individuals active in behavioral health issues within their
- 26 community.

27 (2) Additional representatives or individuals designated by the Council

28 shall be appointed by the Secretary.

29 (b) Members appointed by the Governor under subsection (a)(1)(xxi) of this

1 section shall be representative, to the extent practicable, of:

2 (1) Geographic regions of the State;

3 (2) At-risk populations;

4 (3) Ethnic, gender, across-the-lifespan, and cultural diversity; and

5 (4) Balanced representation from areas of mental health and substance use
6 disorders.

7 (c) The Council shall appoint a chair from among the membership of the Council.

8 (d) (1) Members appointed by the Governor under subsection (a)(1)(xxi) of this
9 section:

10 (i) Serve a [~~3-year~~] **4-YEAR** term;

11 (ii) May serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms;

12 (iii) After at least 6 years have passed since serving, may be
13 reappointed for terms that comply with items (i) and (ii) of this paragraph;

14 (iv) At the end of a term, continue to serve until a successor is
15 appointed and qualifies; and

16 (v) If appointed after a term has begun, serve only for the rest of the
17 term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

18 (2) Ex officio members serve as long as the member holds the specified
19 office or designation.

20 (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, all members
21 serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

22 (e) With the consent of the Council, the chair may designate additional
23 individuals with relevant expertise to serve on a committee or task force.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
25 as follows:

26 **Article – Health – General**

27 7.5–305.

28 The Council shall:

1 (1) Promote and advocate for:

2 (i) Planning, policy, workforce development, and services to ensure
3 a coordinated, quality system of care that is outcome-guided and that integrates
4 prevention, recovery, evidence-based practices, and cost-effective strategies that enhance
5 behavioral health services across the State; and

6 (ii) A culturally competent and comprehensive approach to publicly
7 funded prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services that support and
8 foster wellness, recovery, resiliency, and health for individuals who have behavioral health
9 disorders and their family members; and

10 (2) Submit, **IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON**
11 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TREATMENT AND ACCESS**, an annual report to the
12 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General
13 Assembly on or before December 31 of each year.

14 13-4801.

15 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (c) “Commission” means the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment
17 and Access.

18 13-4802.

19 There is a Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access, **WHICH**
20 **SHALL MEET JOINTLY WITH THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

21 13-4803.

22 (f) The Commission shall meet at least three times per year at the times and
23 places determined **JOINTLY** by the Commission **AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
24 **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

25 13-4805.

26 The Commission shall:

27 (1) Conduct an assessment of behavioral health services in the State to
28 identify needs and gaps in services across the continuum, including community-based
29 outpatient and support services, crisis response, and inpatient care;

30 (2) Examine the methods for reimbursing behavioral health care services
31 in the State and make recommendations on the most effective forms of reimbursement to
32 maximize service delivery;

1 (3) Compile findings of State-specific needs assessments related to
2 behavioral health care services;

3 (4) Review recommendations and reports of State commissions,
4 workgroups, or task forces related to behavioral health care services;

5 (5) Conduct a needs assessment on the State's behavioral health care
6 workforce to identify gaps and make recommendations to ensure an adequate, culturally
7 competent, and diverse workforce across the behavioral health care continuum;

8 (6) Review trends and best practices from other states regarding policy and
9 reimbursement strategies that support access to a comprehensive array of services and
10 ensure quality of care;

11 (7) Examine and make recommendations related to the behavioral health
12 of the geriatric and youth populations in the State;

13 (8) Examine and make recommendations to provide appropriate and
14 adequate behavioral health services to individuals with developmental disabilities and
15 complex behavioral health needs, specifically youth;

16 (9) Assess the health infrastructure, facilities, personnel, and services
17 available for the State's forensic population and identify deficiencies in resources and
18 policies needed to prioritize health outcomes, increase public safety, and reduce recidivism;

19 (10) Make recommendations on expanding behavioral health treatment
20 access for the State's court-ordered population;

21 (11) Make recommendations on action plans regarding the behavioral
22 health care system's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges affecting the
23 entire State or particular regions or populations in the State, including pandemics and
24 extreme weather events;

25 (12) Make recommendations to ensure that behavioral health treatment is
26 provided in the appropriate setting, including methods to divert behavioral health patients
27 from emergency departments by using the Maryland Mental Health and Substance Use
28 Disorder Registry and Referral System established under § 7.5-802 of this article and
29 2-1-1;

30 (13) Examine and review the use of harm reduction strategies to facilitate
31 access to care; [and]

32 (14) Examine methods to assist consumers in accessing behavioral health
33 services; **AND**

34 **(15) MAKE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

1 **ADVISORY COUNCIL, RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE FINANCING STRUCTURE**
2 **AND QUALITY OVERSIGHT NECESSARY TO INTEGRATE SOMATIC AND BEHAVIORAL**
3 **HEALTH SERVICES IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 13–4806.

5 (a) The Commission shall establish the following workgroups:

6 (1) Geriatric behavioral health;

7 (2) Youth behavioral health, individuals with developmental disabilities,
8 and individuals with complex behavioral health needs;

9 (3) Criminal justice–involved behavioral health; and

10 (4) Behavioral health workforce development, infrastructure, coordination,
11 and financing.

12 (b) The workgroups established under subsection (a) of this section shall meet at
13 least two times per year at the times and places determined by the workgroup.

14 (c) The workgroups established under subsection (a) of this section shall include
15 members of the Commission and may include individuals invited by the Commission **OR**
16 **THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL** to serve on the workgroup.

17 (d) On or before [December] **JULY** 1 each year, beginning in [2023] **2024**, the
18 workgroups established under subsection (a) of this section shall report and make
19 recommendations to the Commission **AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY**
20 **COUNCIL**.

21 13–4807.

22 (a) (1) On or before January 1 each year, beginning in 2024, the Commission,
23 **IN COORDINATION WITH THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**, shall
24 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,
25 the General Assembly on the Commission’s findings and recommendations, including
26 funding and legislative recommendations, that are consistent with providing appropriate,
27 accessible, and comprehensive behavioral health services that are available on demand to
28 individuals in the State across the behavioral health continuum.

29 (2) Any legislative recommendations included in the report required under
30 paragraph (1) of this subsection that require funding shall include an estimate of the
31 funding required to implement the recommendation and information that supports the
32 funding estimate.

33 (b) The report required on or before January 1, 2024, shall include the findings of

1 the needs assessments required under § 13–4805 of this subtitle.

2 **(C) THE REPORT REQUIRED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, SHALL**
3 **INCLUDE THE COMMISSION’S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE**
4 **FINANCING STRUCTURE AND QUALITY OVERSIGHT NECESSARY TO INTEGRATE**
5 **SOMATIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL**
6 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2024. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective until the taking effect of the termination
9 provision specified in Section 8 of Chapters 290 and 291 of the Acts of the General Assembly
10 of 2023. If that termination provision takes effect, Section 2 of this Act, with no further
11 action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and
12 effect. Section 2 of this Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that termination
13 provision.