

Chapter 686

(Senate Bill 790)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Department of Health—Workgroup Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Plan to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Maryland Department of Health to convene a~~ Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access, through its workgroup on youth behavioral health, individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals with complex behavioral health needs, to provide recommendations to implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment requirements; and generally relating to a workgroup plan to implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment requirements.

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

~~(a) The Maryland Department of Health shall convene a workgroup to implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment requirements.~~

~~(b) The workgroup shall include the following members:~~

~~(1) behavioral health professionals who work with children and families;~~

~~(2) childhood mental health specialists;~~

~~(3) clinicians who work with children and families;~~

~~(4) children with behavioral health issues;~~

~~(5) behavioral health advocates;~~

~~(6) parents and caregivers with experience navigating the behavioral health system on behalf of children; and~~

~~(7) other interested stakeholders.~~

~~(e)~~ (a) The Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access, through its workgroup on youth behavioral health, individuals with developmental disabilities, and individuals with complex behavioral health needs, shall create a plan provide recommendations to implement the recommendations in Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Health Official

letter #24–005: Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Requirements for children, including:

- (1) screening and assessment of behavioral health conditions;
- (2) the feasibility of implementing the DC:0–5 Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood as a diagnostic tool for patients under the age of 5 years;
- (3) community–based services to correct and ameliorate a wide range of behavioral health conditions; and
- (4) services to:
 - (i) ensure children’s behavioral health;
 - (ii) address early symptoms of concern, with or without a diagnosis;
 - (iii) address urgent and crisis needs.

and

(b) In performing the duties described in subsection (a) of this section, the Council and Commission, through its workgroup, shall consult with:

- (1) behavioral health professionals who work with children and families;
- (2) early childhood mental health specialists;
- (3) clinicians who work with children and families;
- (4) children with behavioral health issues;
- (5) behavioral health advocates;
- (6) parents and caregivers with experience navigating the behavioral health system on behalf of children; and
- (7) other interested stakeholders.

~~(d)~~ (c) On or before ~~December 1, 2025~~ January 1, 2026, the Maryland Department of Health shall submit a report of ~~the~~ its findings and recommendations ~~of the workgroup~~ to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2026, this~~

~~Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.