

# SENATE BILL 592

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CF HB 743

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By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Health Care Quality Fund for Community–Based Behavioral**  
3 **Health Programs – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Health Care Quality Fund for Community–Based  
5 Behavioral Health Programs as a special, nonlapsing fund in the Maryland  
6 Department of Health; requiring the Department to pay to the Comptroller certain  
7 civil penalties collected from behavioral health programs and the Comptroller to  
8 distribute the penalties into the Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be  
9 credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Health Care Quality Fund for  
10 Community–Based Behavioral Health Programs.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Health – General  
13 Section 7.5–405  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
18 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
22 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
23 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205.  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

26 BY adding to  
27 Article – State Finance and Procurement

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)206.  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Health – General**

7 **7.5–405.**

8 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE HEALTH CARE QUALITY FUND  
9 FOR COMMUNITY–BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

10 (B) THERE IS A HEALTH CARE QUALITY FUND FOR COMMUNITY–BASED  
11 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

12 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER ALL CIVIL  
13 PENALTIES COLLECTED FROM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS THAT ARE  
14 ASSESSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY.

15 (2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE PENALTIES TO THE  
16 FUND.

17 (D) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRAINING,  
18 GRANT AWARDS, DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, OR OTHER PURPOSES DESIGNED TO  
19 IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE.

20 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

21 (F) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
22 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

23 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
24 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

25 (G) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

26 (1) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER  
27 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION;

28 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

29 (3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND



