

# SENATE BILL 790

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5lr3062  
CF 5lr3061

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By: **Senator Augustine**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Workgroup to Implement Early and Periodic**  
3 **Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to convene a workgroup  
5 to implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment  
6 requirements; and generally relating to a workgroup to implement Early and  
7 Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment requirements.

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

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

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

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

14 (2) childhood mental health specialists;

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

16 (4) children with behavioral health issues;

17 (5) behavioral health advocates;

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

20 (7) other interested stakeholders.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The workgroup shall create a plan to implement the recommendations in  
2 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Health Official letter #24-005: Best  
3 Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment  
4 (EPSDT) Requirements for children, including:

5 (1) screening and assessment of behavioral health conditions;

6 (2) the feasibility of implementing the DC:0-5 Diagnostic Classification of  
7 Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood as a  
8 diagnostic tool for patients under the age of 5 years;

9 (3) community-based services to correct and ameliorate a wide range of  
10 behavioral health conditions; and

11 (4) services to:

12 (i) ensure children's behavioral health;

13 (ii) address early symptoms of concern, with or without a diagnosis;

14 and

15 (iii) address urgent and crisis needs.

16 (d) On or before December 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health shall  
17 submit a report of the findings and recommendations of the workgroup to the General  
18 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
20 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2026, this  
21 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no  
22 further force and effect.