

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 163
Finance

(Senator M. Washington)

Health – General Article – References to Mental Health

This bill generally replaces remaining references to “mental hygiene” with “mental health” in the Health-General Article. Uncodified language requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), by October 1, 2026, to review departmental regulations and replace any remaining references to “mental hygiene” with “mental health.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The impact is small enough that it can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 214 of 2017 renamed the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to be the Maryland Department of Health and renamed the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be the Secretary of Health.

Limited mentions of “mental hygiene” remain in the code, including the Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund and the Maryland Mental Hygiene Law, among other miscellaneous references. Several references to “mental hygiene” remain in Maryland regulations, most significantly in COMAR 10.21 – Mental Hygiene Regulations.

Additional Comments: MDH notes that other State agencies still use the term “mental hygiene” in their regulations, though the bill only requires MDH to update its regulations.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 13, 2025
km/jc

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