

HOUSE BILL 922

J3, J1

6lr2578
CF SB 702

By: **Delegates Hutchinson and Adams**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Behavioral Health Administration – Behavioral Health Program Relocation –**
3 **Regulations**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Behavioral Health Administration to adopt certain
5 regulations authorizing an existing behavioral health program to move to relocate to
6 a new site; and generally relating to the relocation of behavioral health programs.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Health – General

9 Section 7.5–402(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 7.5–402.

16 (a) Regulations adopted under this subtitle shall include:

17 (1) The requirements for licensure of a behavioral health program,
18 including a requirement that the behavioral health program:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (i) 1. Establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of the
2 individuals served by the behavioral health program; or

3 2. Implement a safety or emergency plan established for the
4 program for another purpose; and

5 (ii) Revise the safety plan not less than every 5 years;

6 (2) The process for a behavioral health program to apply for a license;

7 (3) A description of the behavioral health programs that are required to be
8 licensed;

9 (4) Any requirements for the governance of a behavioral health program,
10 including:

11 (i) A provision prohibiting a conflict of interest between the
12 interests of the provider and those of the individual receiving services;

13 (ii) A provision authorizing a behavioral health program licensed as
14 an outpatient mental health center to satisfy any regulatory requirement that the medical
15 director be on site through the use of telehealth by the director; and

16 (iii) A provision authorizing a psychiatric nurse practitioner to serve
17 as a medical director of an outpatient mental health center accredited in accordance with
18 COMAR 10.63.03.05, including through telehealth;

19 (5) Provisions for inspections of a behavioral health program, including
20 inspection and copying of the records of a behavioral health program in accordance with
21 State and federal law; [and]

22 (6) Provisions for denials, sanctions, suspensions, and revocations of
23 licenses, including imposition of civil monetary penalties, and notice and an opportunity to
24 be heard; AND

25 **(7) PROVISIONS AUTHORIZING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO**
26 **RELOCATE TO ANOTHER SITE, INCLUDING:**

27 **(I) A PROVISION PROVIDING AN EXPEDITED APPROVAL**
28 **PROCESS FOR THE RELOCATION OF AN EXISTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM**
29 **THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A NEW BEHAVIORAL**
30 **HEALTH PROGRAM;**

31 **(II) A PROVISION AUTHORIZING A RELOCATING BEHAVIORAL**
32 **HEALTH PROGRAM TO USE DOCUMENTATION PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO THE**

1 ADMINISTRATION IF THE INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENTATION IS UNCHANGED
2 OR NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROCESS OF RELOCATING TO A NEW SITE;

3 (III) A PROVISION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY APPROVAL FOR A
4 RELOCATING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO BEGIN PRACTICING AT THE NEW
5 SITE ON A DETERMINATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE NEW LOCATION
6 MEETS LIFE SAFETY STANDARDS;

7 (IV) A PROVISION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO
8 CONSIDER THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM'S REGULATORY RECORD AS A BASIS
9 FOR STREAMLINING THE RELOCATION REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS; AND

10 (V) A PROVISION REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATION TO
11 PROVIDE CLEAR TIMELINES AND STANDARDS FOR THE RELOCATION REVIEW AND
12 APPROVAL PROCESS.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.