

# SENATE BILL 702

J3, J1

6lr2579  
CF HB 922

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By: Senator Mautz

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

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:

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

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) Revise the safety plan not less than every 5 years;
- 2 (2) The process for a behavioral health program to apply for a license;
- 3 (3) A description of the behavioral health programs that are required to be
- 4 licensed;
- 5 (4) Any requirements for the governance of a behavioral health program,
- 6 including:

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (I) **A PROVISION PROVIDING AN EXPEDITED APPROVAL**  
24 **PROCESS FOR THE RELOCATION OF AN EXISTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM**  
25 **THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A NEW BEHAVIORAL**  
26 **HEALTH PROGRAM;**

27 (II) **A PROVISION AUTHORIZING A RELOCATING BEHAVIORAL**  
28 **HEALTH PROGRAM TO USE DOCUMENTATION PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO THE**  
29 **ADMINISTRATION IF THE INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENTATION IS UNCHANGED**  
30 **OR NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROCESS OF RELOCATING TO A NEW SITE;**

31 (III) **A PROVISION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY APPROVAL FOR A**  
32 **RELOCATING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO BEGIN PRACTICING AT THE NEW**

1 SITE ON A DETERMINATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE NEW LOCATION  
2 MEETS LIFE SAFETY STANDARDS;

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

6 (V) A PROVISION REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATION TO  
7 PROVIDE CLEAR TIMELINES AND STANDARDS FOR THE RELOCATION REVIEW AND  
8 APPROVAL PROCESS.

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