

# SENATE BILL 898

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By: Senator McCray

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Registered Behavior Technicians –**  
3 **Reimbursement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide  
5 reimbursement for applied behavior analysis services provided by registered  
6 behavior technicians under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; prohibiting,  
7 subject to a certain exception, the Department from requiring as a condition of  
8 reimbursement that an individual receive a certain certification to provide applied  
9 behavior analysis services as a registered behavior technician to Program recipients;  
10 and generally relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and applied  
11 behavior analysis services.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Health – General

14 Section 15–114.2

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 **15–114.2.**

21 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
22 **INDICATED.**

23 **(2) (I) “APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS” MEANS THE DESIGN,**  
24 **IMPLEMENTATION, AND EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATIONS USING**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BEHAVIORAL STIMULI AND CONSEQUENCES TO PRODUCE SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT  
2 IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR.

3 (II) "APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS" INCLUDES THE DIRECT  
4 OBSERVATIONS, MEASUREMENT, AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONS  
5 BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR.

6 (3) "AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER" MEANS A GROUP OF  
7 DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS:

8 (I) CHARACTERIZED BY PERSISTENT DEFICITS IN SOCIAL  
9 COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION ACROSS MULTIPLE CONTEXTS;

10 (II) CHARACTERIZED BY RESTRICTED, REPETITIVE PATTERNS  
11 OF BEHAVIOR, INTERESTS, OR ACTIVITIES; AND

12 (III) WHOSE SYMPTOMS CAUSE CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT  
13 IMPAIRMENT IN SOCIAL, OCCUPATIONAL, OR OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS OF  
14 CURRENT FUNCTIONING.

15 (4) "BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST" MEANS A LICENSED  
16 PROFESSIONAL WHO:

17 (I) RENDERS AND PROVIDES DIRECTION FOR APPLIED  
18 BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM  
19 SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND

20 (II) HAS OBTAINED A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST  
21 CERTIFICATION.

22 (5) "BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST-DOCTORAL" MEANS A  
23 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL WHO:

24 (I) RENDERS AND PROVIDES DIRECTION FOR APPLIED  
25 BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS TREATMENTS THAT ARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH  
26 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND

27 (II) HAS OBTAINED A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR  
28 ANALYST-DOCTORAL CERTIFICATION.

29 (6) "REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN" MEANS A  
30 PARAPROFESSIONAL WHO DELIVERS APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES THAT

1 ARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER UNDER THE  
2 SUPERVISION OF:

3 (I) A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST;

4 (II) A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST–DOCTORAL; OR

5 (III) A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST.

6 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
7 APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES PROVIDED BY REGISTERED BEHAVIOR  
8 TECHNICIANS TO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

9 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS  
10 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE AS A CONDITION OF  
11 REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM THAT AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVE A  
12 CERTIFICATION FROM THE BEHAVIOR ANALYST CERTIFICATION BOARD OR OTHER  
13 CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO PROVIDE APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES AS A  
14 REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN.

15 (3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE AS A CONDITION OF  
16 REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM THAT AN INDIVIDUAL OBTAIN A CURRENT  
17 CERTIFICATION ISSUED BY THE BEHAVIOR ANALYST CERTIFICATION BOARD OR  
18 OTHER CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO PROVIDE APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS  
19 SERVICES AS A REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN WITHIN 150 DAYS AFTER THE  
20 INDIVIDUAL BEGINS PROVIDING APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES TO  
21 PROGRAM RECIPIENTS AS A REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN AND MAINTAIN  
22 THE CERTIFICATION.

23 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY  
24 OUT THIS SECTION.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
26 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
27 application to any individual who provides applied behavior analysis services before the  
28 effective date of this Act.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 October 1, 2026.