

# 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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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

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

3                   **(2) (I) “APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS” MEANS THE DESIGN,**  
4 **IMPLEMENTATION, AND EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATIONS USING**  
5 **BEHAVIORAL STIMULI AND CONSEQUENCES TO PRODUCE SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT**  
6 **IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR.**

7                   **(II) “APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS” INCLUDES THE DIRECT**  
8 **OBSERVATIONS, MEASUREMENT, AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONS**  
9 **BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR.**

10                   **(3) “AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER” MEANS A GROUP OF**  
11 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS:**

12                           **(I) CHARACTERIZED BY PERSISTENT DEFICITS IN SOCIAL**  
13 **COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION ACROSS MULTIPLE CONTEXTS;**

14                           **(II) CHARACTERIZED BY RESTRICTED, REPETITIVE PATTERNS**  
15 **OF BEHAVIOR, INTERESTS, OR ACTIVITIES; AND**

16                           **(III) WHOSE SYMPTOMS CAUSE CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT**  
17 **IMPAIRMENT IN SOCIAL, OCCUPATIONAL, OR OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS OF**  
18 **CURRENT FUNCTIONING.**

19                   **(4) “BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST” MEANS A LICENSED**  
20 **PROFESSIONAL WHO:**

21                           **(I) RENDERS AND PROVIDES DIRECTION FOR APPLIED**  
22 **BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM**  
23 **SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND**

24                           **(II) HAS OBTAINED A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST**  
25 **CERTIFICATION.**

26                   **(5) “BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST-DOCTORAL” MEANS A**  
27 **LICENSED PROFESSIONAL WHO:**

28                           **(I) RENDERS AND PROVIDES DIRECTION FOR APPLIED**  
29 **BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS TREATMENTS THAT ARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH**  
30 **AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND**

1 (II) HAS OBTAINED A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR  
2 ANALYST-DOCTORAL CERTIFICATION.

3 (6) "REGISTERED BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN" MEANS A  
4 PARAPROFESSIONAL WHO DELIVERS APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES THAT  
5 ARE PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER UNDER THE  
6 SUPERVISION OF:

7 (I) A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST;

8 (II) A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST-DOCTORAL; OR

9 (III) A BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST.

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

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

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

27 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY  
28 OUT THIS SECTION.

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.