

HOUSE BILL 341

J1

6lr1114

By: **Delegates Wims, Kaiser, Kaufman, J. Long, Pruski, Schindler, Spiegel, Stinnett, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health in the Maryland Department of Health; and generally relating to the Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 13–2401 through 13–2409 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 24. Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Boys and men in Maryland experience disproportionately high rates of chronic disease, suicide, substance use overdose deaths, and other causes of premature mortality; and

WHEREAS, These outcomes are influenced by social determinants such as housing instability, unemployment, and limited educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, Targeted, evidence-based interventions are needed to promote health equity, strengthen families, and improve life expectancy for boys and men in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Improving the health and well-being of boys and men in Maryland is essential to family and community stability, economic productivity, and public health; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

Article – Health – General

SUBTITLE 24. MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR BOYS' AND MEN'S HEALTH.

13-2401.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR BOYS' AND MEN'S HEALTH.

13-2402.

THERE IS A MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR BOYS' AND MEN'S HEALTH IN THE DEPARTMENT.

13-2403.

(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 18 MEMBERS.

(B) (1) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE WHOSE INTERESTS RELATE TO BOYS' AND MEN'S HEALTH OR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT:

(I) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(II) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

(III) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

(2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM APPLICANTS APPLYING ON THEIR OWN BEHALF:

(I) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(II) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

(III) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

(C) (1) A MEMBER SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY.

(2) THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, THE MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(5) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY MAY AUTHORIZE A MEMBER TO SERVE A SECOND CONSECUTIVE TERM WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE FORMAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS.

(6) A MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

(D) A MEMBER:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION; BUT

(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST 10 TIMES EACH YEAR.

(F) A MEMBER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS DURING A 12-MONTH PERIOD SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE RESIGNED.

(G) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE EACH VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC.

13-2404.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

(B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT ANY OFFICERS THAT IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES.

13-2405.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) PERIODICALLY REVIEW HEALTH DATA TO INFORM STRATEGIES AIMED AT REDUCING NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF BOYS AND MEN FOR SPECIFIC HEALTH CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PROSTATE AND TESTICULAR CANCER, ORAL CANCER, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, DEPRESSION, DIABETES, AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS;

(2) COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS TO SHAPE AND ADVISE ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, DESIGNED TO:

(I) RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF BOYS' AND MEN'S HEALTH ISSUES, INCLUDING HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT BOYS AND MEN AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE FAMILY;

(II) SUPPORT BOYS' AND MEN'S PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH-PROMOTING ACTIVITIES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING REGULAR PHYSICIAN CHECKUPS, EARLY DETECTION AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SCREENINGS, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PRACTICES; AND

(III) IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES RELATED TO MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY AMONG BOYS AND MEN;

(3) PROMOTE GENDER AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CARE ACROSS THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE STATE; AND

(4) MONITOR FEDERAL AND STATE POLICY AND LEGISLATION THAT MAY AFFECT THE AREAS OF BOYS' AND MEN'S HEALTH AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER POPULATION DIVERSITY WHEN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

13-2406.

(A) THE COMMISSION, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, MAY ACCEPT:

(1) FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) PRIVATE GIFTS AND DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, OR FOUNDATIONS.

(B) THE ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A COMMITMENT OF STATE FUNDS AND PLACES NO OBLIGATION ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

13-2407.

EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL FULLY COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S DUTIES.

13-2408.

(A) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY CHANGES THAT WILL FURTHER THE GOALS OF THE COMMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(B) THE REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2028 AND EVERY 2 YEARS THEREAFTER SHALL INCLUDE PROGRESS INDICATORS AND DATA TRENDS BASED ON THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES.

13-2409.

THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ADOPT REGULATIONS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in making appointments under this Act, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House shall ensure to the extent practicable geographic, demographic, and professional diversity among the membership of the Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health.

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