



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 453 - Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services

SPONSOR: Senators Pinsky, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: February 18, 2020

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 453 - Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services**, which requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of the specific psychiatric rehabilitation services, therapeutic services, care coordination services, and home health aide services available to a child in the State who has a mental disorder. The bill also requires the list to include services available to any child with a mental disorder who is either enrolled in Medicaid or has health insurance and directs the BHA to establish a method by which an individual may request the list through the BHA website.

It can be overwhelming for anyone to find a health care provider who offers specific mental health services and accepts their health insurance. Parents of children with a mental disorder find themselves in the even more stressful position of navigating an opaque health care system for services and treatments they have never had to investigate before. Providing a singular list that can be searched for specific mental health services and that clarifies whether the provider accepts Medicaid or commercial health insurers will present parents an easy-to-use resource to help navigate finding the appropriate care for their children.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 453** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.