



HB0108/553128/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

28 JAN 21
09:28:12

BY: Delegate Charkoudian
(To be offered in the Health and Government Operations
Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 108
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 1, after line 27, insert:

“Preamble

WHEREAS, 785,000 adults in Maryland have a mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, 1.3 million individuals in Maryland live in a mental health professional shortage area, including Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other People of Color who lack access to mental health services, face stigma related to mental illness treatment, and historically distrust the medical system due to institutional racism; and

WHEREAS, These issues and other racial health disparities create obstacles to timely and affordable mental health treatment, which means individuals in these communities are more likely to access care after they are in crisis; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement is the default option when families call for help, creating dangerous dynamics for the individual experiencing a mental health crisis, especially for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other People of Color; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other People of Color experiencing a mental health crisis have been killed by Maryland law enforcement during a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, A 2016 report in the American Sociological Review, Vol. 81(5) 857–876, titled “Police Violence and Citizen Crime Reporting in the Black Community” by Matthew Desmond, Andrew V. Papachristos, and David S. Kirk, found that “immediately following and for more than a year after the highly publicized assault or death of a Black person at the hands of police, Black Americans are less likely to dial 911”; and

(Over)

WHEREAS, Individuals in a mental health crisis frequently encounter police rather than get medical attention, resulting in 44% of individuals incarcerated in jails and 37% of individuals in state and federal prisons having a history of mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Receiving timely and appropriate mental health crisis services can be the difference between life and death for individuals with serious mental illness, as nearly one in four individuals shot and killed by police officers has had a mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, According to the Washington Post's Police Shootings Database, in 2019, out of 999 individuals killed by police shootings nationwide, 214 (or 21%) had a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, According to the Washington Post's Police Shootings Database, in 2020, out of 999 individuals killed by police shootings nationwide, 194 (or 20%) had a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is the 7th most diverse state in the U.S. with over 46% of the State's total residents being composed of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, Cultural competence refers to the ability to honor, respect, and become well-informed about the cultural practices, beliefs, languages, interpersonal styles, and behaviors of individuals and families receiving services, as well as staff members who are providing services; and

WHEREAS, Many governmental and nongovernmental entities, including law enforcement officials and other first responders, receive limited training to interact with, support, and work with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and are not adequately trained to de-escalate and intervene safely, effectively, humanely, and according to mental health professional standards when an individual is in the midst of a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other People of Color and LGBTQ individuals, working class individuals, and individuals with disabilities are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of their social determinants of health as a result of a history of racism and discrimination in the medical and mental health professions; now, therefore,".