

TERESA E. REILLY
Legislative District 35B
Cecil and Harford Counties

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations and
Long Term Care

Public Health and
Minority Disparities

Chair

Harford County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1096 Public Schools – School Psychologist Recruitment Program
Ways and Means Committee

February 24, 2021

Chair Kaiser and the Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community. They are a much needed resource within the K-12 public school system.

As a result of the passage of my bill **HB 844- Public Schools – School Psychologists – Reports** in 2019, each school system submitted an interim report on school psychologists in the local school system. The report included the following information:

- Number of schools with fewer than 700 students
- Strategies to increase the number of school psychologists in each school with fewer than 700 students to not less than one school psychologist in each school on or before October 1, 2020.
- Additional State or local funding needed by the local school system (total)
- Policies to decrease wait times for students seeking to meet with a school psychologist
- Strategies to increase the recruitment and retention of qualified school psychologists in the local school system

This year I'm looking to address some of the report findings by way of Legislation.

Therefore, I am introducing a bill that will address the **School Psychologist Recruitment Program**. This legislation will provide expanded professional development opportunities for school psychologists with financial reimbursement for conferences, etc..

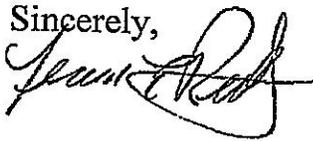
The amount of students requiring services has risen in the past few decades in all categories (suicide, major depression, behavioral & mental health, bullying, and the need for accurate IEPs). In addition to the above issues, there is a growing crisis in the problems that have been seen in our students as a result of quarantines, remote learning, lack of sports activities, etc. due to Covid -19.

With Maryland students doing most of their school work remotely and the problems that sometimes attend our students, our school psychologists have become more important than ever.

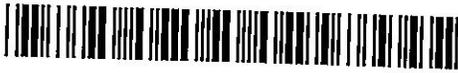
Our children deserve the best psychologists available and this bill will help in achieving that end.

I respectfully ask for a Favorable Report for HB 1096 as amended.

Sincerely,



Delegate Teresa E. Reilly
District 35B, Cecil and Harford Counties



HB1096/323328/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

22 FEB 21
13:59:40

BY: Delegate Reilly
(To be offered in the Committee on Ways and Means)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1096
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, strike “, in coordination with the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists,”; and in lines 6, 7, 10, and 11, in each instance, strike “certified”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 5 through 12, inclusive; in line 13, strike “(3)” and substitute “(2)”; after line 14, insert:

“(3) “SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CERTIFIED TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR STATE-APPROVED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SETTING IN THE STATE.”;

strike in their entirety lines 15 through 17, inclusive; in lines 23 and 24, strike “, IN COORDINATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS,”; and in line 29, after “PROGRAMS;” insert “AND”.

On page 2 in lines 21, 22, and 25, and on page 3 in lines 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 18, and 21, in each instance, strike “CERTIFIED”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike beginning with the semicolon in line 30 on page 2 down through “PSYCHOLOGISTS” in line 3 on page 3.

On page 4, in line 3, strike “1,000” and substitute “100”.