



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

Bill Number: House Bill 1029

Position: Letter of Information

Title: Maryland Higher Education Commission – Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee – Establishment

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Hearing Date: March 15, 2022

Bill Summary:

House Bill 1029 establishes the Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to study the policies and procedures regarding access to mental health services for students, examine the challenges for certain institutions in meeting the demand for mental health services, review best practices for accessing services and identify the best models for providing services. It also requires the Committee to make recommendations to the Senate Budget & Taxation and the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs committees and the House Appropriations and the Ways & Means committees and the Governor by December 1, 2022.

Information:

Over the past two years, MHEC leadership has regularly convened representatives from institutions and segments to discuss COVID related issues. When appropriate, we have invited expert individuals to speak on specific topics of interest so that all campuses have the necessary information to ensure student safety. This model has been particularly useful in supporting campuses as they address COVID related issues. We envision that the Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee will convene in a similar manner to meet the stated objectives in House Bill 1029.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, at emily.dow@maryland.gov for more information.