

MICHELE GUYTON  
Legislative District 42B  
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee

Early Childhood Subcommittee

Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 5, 2022

SUPPORT

**HB657- Public Schools- Standardized Behavioral Health Screenings for Students –  
Development and implementation**

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I am writing to request a favorable report on HB657 –designed to provide standardized guidelines to county boards regarding information to be collected during school registration for each student. Currently each of our 24 systems already requires a version of a “student questionnaire” that is filled out by parents or guardians at the beginning of the school year. The extent and type of information collected by counties differs dramatically and affects the allocation of resources and the services that may be provided for students.

This bill simply puts into place a behavioral health advisory group to assist the members of the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports that was established in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future to develop behavioral health screenings. The amendment defines this screening as a questionnaire. This group will work with the Consortium to make recommendations about required topic to be included in school questionnaires. The local boards still have autonomy to create their own specific questions if they choose to do so.

There have been many different advocacy groups requesting that we collect information about specific subjects through a variety of bills every year. This bill attempts to consolidate those in one advisory group for consistency and expediency. Some questions about why the health related questions are included – these can mask or present as a behavioral health issue.

We have one technical amendment which makes changes to the advisory group membership and one amendment to clarify that the screening will be administered as a parent questionnaire. Thank you for your consideration of HB657. This bill will help all children in Maryland access equivalent resources.

Sincerely,

Delegate Michele Guyton D24B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".