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*Legislative District 35B*  
Cecil and Harford Counties

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

Rules and Executive  
Nominations 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 752-Public Schools-School Psychologist Recruitment Program**  
**Ways and Means Committee**  
**February 24, 2022**

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

HB 752 establishes the School Psychologist Recruitment Program in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide professional development programs to individuals who are, or are seeking to become, certified school psychologists in Maryland. The program shall maintain a clearinghouse of school psychologist best practices and communicate and promote upcoming opportunities and available resources to certified school psychologists. The program shall reimburse certified school psychologists for attending professional conferences, as specified. Annually, the program shall select up to 100 individuals to grant aid in an amount equal to the certification fee charged by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). MSDE shall adopt regulations to carry out the program.

School psychologists are an integral part of a public school system. However, the majority of Maryland counties do not adhere to the National Association of School Psychologists' recommended ratio of no more than 500 to 700 students per school psychologist. 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. One of the recommendations from the report was to develop strategies to increase the recruitment and retention of qualified school psychologists in the local school system. It also detailed the importance of creating 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.

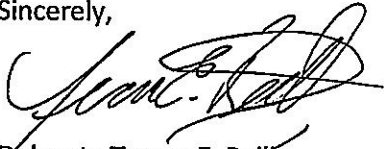
I believe this legislation will provide expanded professional development opportunities for school psychologists with financial reimbursement for conferences, etc.. It will also encourage people to enter the profession, become certified school psychologists, and remain in the profession so that over time the recommended ratio of students to school psychologists will be achieved.

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). When you factor in the added stressors of the pandemic that have impacted the daily lives for 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 from the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa E. Reilly", written in a cursive style.

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