

2022 HB 752-Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Cynthia Robichaud

Position: FAV

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

Health and Government
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Subcommittees

Health Occupations and
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Public Health and
Minority Disparities

Chair

Harford County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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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

MPA Testimony 2022 - Support - House Bill 752 – Pu

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: FAV



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February 24, 2022

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Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 752 – Public Schools - School Psychologist Recruitment Program

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in support of **HB 752 – Public Schools - School Psychologist Recruitment Program**.

School psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to Maryland's students, including counseling, assessment, and consultation. As school-based mental health professionals, they are acutely aware of the significant mental health needs of the students they work with, and they are instrumental in helping to address those needs in Maryland's schools. Yet many school psychologists are saddled with excessive caseloads and are simply unavailable to help many of the students who need their support. Given the severe and increasing shortage of qualified school psychologists available to work in Maryland's public schools, this is a crisis in the making.

HB 752 will help to fend off this crisis by providing MSDE with a mechanism for recruiting and supporting more school psychologists for our schools. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 752. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or exec@marylandpsychology.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Linda McGhee

Linda McGhee, PsyD., J.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

MSP HB 752 House Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FAV



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 22, 2022

Bill: House Bill 752 – Public Schools - School Psychologist Recruitment Program

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

There is currently a significant shortage of school psychologists in our state. There is a variety of interrelated causes to these shortages. We support any efforts to increase the number of school psychologists in our state.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB 752. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP

Chair, Legislative Committee

Maryland School Psychologists' Association

HB752 School Psychologist Recruitment 2.24.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: FWA



HB752 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

February 24, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB752 Public Schools - School Psychologist Recruitment Program**. This bill establishes the School Psychologist Recruitment Program within MSDE. It also requires the Program to provide professional development programs and aid for a certain certification fee to school psychologists and individuals seeking to become school psychologists and to reimburse school psychologists for professional conference expenses.

AACPS recognizes the importance of promoting the positive mental health of all students through the development of impactful relationships and by teaching resilience. Student mental health is of particular importance during this time when AACPS students are faced with a global health pandemic and other challenges. School counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, pupil personnel workers, and school nurses collaborate with staff, parents/guardians, and the community to overcome barriers to learning. The emphasis on multi-tiered systems of support, which also include Section 504 accommodations and restorative practices, further supports this effort and AACPS Strategic Plan emphasizing relationships, rigor, and readiness for all students. By removing barriers, providing resources, and teaching appropriate social-emotional skills, students gain the tools to be productive citizens.

School psychology is currently a critical shortage area and local school systems would certainly benefit from a Statewide recruitment effort.

AACPS respectfully requests that the bill be amended to emphasize recruitment and support of diverse candidates. Diverse school psychologists would be a benefit to our diverse student population as they navigate a variety of issues, including discrimination, bias, and cultural barriers; lack of access to resources and mental health providers; mental health stigma; poverty; social media; and trauma.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB752.