



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1148 - Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)

**Hearing Date:** February 28, 2023

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care supports *House Bill 1148 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)*. Through the establishment of the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access, the bill would advance a public health approach to improving access to behavioral health. The Commission’s work would begin with a robust needs assessment by region of unmet behavioral health needs. Then, through several workgroups, the Commission would gather extensive data from clinicians, consumers, and public health experts on potential strategies to close gaps in access.

The bill also extends the sunset date for two critical provisions of telehealth reimbursement law for Medicaid and state-regulated private insurance: 1) required reimbursement for audio-only services; and 2) required reimbursement parity for telehealth services.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).