



Delegate Heather Bagnall, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
House Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 4, 2026

Bill: House Bill 1021 – Health Occupations - Licensed Psychologists - Prescriptive Authority
Position: Support

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing over 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social- emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state. School psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to children in Maryland's schools, including counseling, consultation and assessment.

We are writing in support of House Bill 1021 - Health Occupations - Licensed Psychologists - Prescriptive Authority, which has the potential to substantially improve Maryland families' access to effective, coordinated treatment for serious mental illness. Although most students experiencing serious behavioral and mental health challenges can respond well to timely and data-driven intervention in our schools, it is necessary to be able to send parents to outside resources in some cases – and in the case of child psychiatrists, parents frequently encounter difficulty in finding one in their area who accepts their insurance, with long delays in being able to get an appointment. This access to care issue has been worsening in recent years.

HB 1021 would authorize properly trained licensed psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medication, but only after years of post-doctoral study and supervised training in clinical psychopharmacology. Collaboration with medical providers is included as a requirement. This practice has been authorized in seven other states, with several having decades of positive experience, including improved outcomes for minority and underserved populations. This legislation creates a carefully regulated option to improve continuity of care, reduce delays in treatment, and enhance coordination for patients who would benefit from integrated psychological and medication services.

MSPA urges you to consider a favorable report on HB 1021. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura M. Grubb PhD".

Laura M. Grubb, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA
Legislative Chair, Maryland School Psychologists' Association

MARYLAND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION