



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 341

DATE: February 10, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Wims, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Health

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POSITION: FAVORABLE (Department of Health and Human Services)

Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Health – Establishment

House Bill 341 establishes the Maryland Commission for Boys' and Men's Mental Health in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The commission must (1) review health data to inform strategies to reduce negative health outcomes of boys and men; (2) collaborate with partners to advise on policies and programs; (3) promote gender and culturally responsive care across the State; and (4) monitor federal and State policy and legislation. By September 30 of each year, the commission must submit recommendations for policy changes that further the commission's goals to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health Committee. Beginning in 2028 and biannually thereafter, the report must include progress indicators and data trends.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services supports the proposed legislation because it will improve coordination and focus on health outcomes that disproportionately affect men and boys, reinforcing statewide efforts to address persistent health disparities. Although Montgomery County is recognized as one of the healthiest counties in Maryland with a life expectancy of approximately 83.5 years, higher than state and national averages, significant disparities remain across population groups, including differences in chronic disease outcomes and access to care that vary by race, ethnicity, and sex, particularly among men and communities of color. Data from local health assessments also indicate that despite overall strong health outcomes, inequities persist in rates of chronic disease, behavioral health needs, and emergency department utilization among subpopulations, underscoring the need for targeted strategies.

The creation of a Maryland Commission on Boys' and Men's Health will provide a structured, evidence-based platform to analyze data, engage communities, and advance policies that promote preventive care, expand access to culturally competent services, and address social determinants of health. By prioritizing outreach and interventions for underserved groups, including those identified in Montgomery County's health equity initiatives, House Bill 341 aligns with local and state commitments to reduce inequities and improve health outcomes for all residents. Coordination at the state level will support local health departments in leveraging data, resources, and best practices to reduce disparities in chronic conditions, mental health, and other priority areas. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services anticipates that the Commission's recommendations will enhance policy development, drive sustainable improvements in population health, and strengthen partnerships across jurisdictions. For these reasons, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 341.

