

SENATE BILL 937

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2lr2964
CF HB 1029

By: **Senator Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Higher Education Commission – Access to Mental Health Advisory**
3 **Committee – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee within
5 the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and generally relating to the Access to
6 Mental Health Advisory Committee.

7 BY adding to
8 Article – Education
9 Section 11–108
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Education**

15 **11–108.**

16 **(A) THERE IS AN ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

17 **(B) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

18 **(1) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY’S**
19 **DESIGNEE;**

20 **(2) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND,**
21 **OR THE CHANCELLOR’S DESIGNEE;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) THE PRESIDENT OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(4) THE PRESIDENT OF MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(5) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

(6) THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(7) A DIRECTOR OF A CAMPUS-BASED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING CENTER, APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY;

(8) A CAMPUS-BASED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY;

(9) TWO LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WITH CAMPUS-BASED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE, APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY;

(10) TWO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELORS FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES; AND

(11) A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELOR FROM A NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION.

(C) (1) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

(2) THE COMMITTEE MAY ELECT OTHER OFFICERS AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE.

(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMITTEE.

(E) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET SIX TIMES PER YEAR.

(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE:

1 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
2 COMMITTEE; BUT

3 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
4 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

5 (G) THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

6 (1) STUDY THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY
7 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE REGARDING ACCESS TO
8 MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL
9 ILLNESS IN STUDENTS;

10 (2) EXAMINE THE CHALLENGES FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
11 EDUCATION IN MEETING THE DEMAND FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;

12 (3) REVIEW BEST PRACTICES FOR ACCESSING OFF-CAMPUS MENTAL
13 HEALTH SERVICES;

14 (4) REVIEW BEST PRACTICES FOR, AND BARRIERS TO, THE
15 IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNSELING SERVICES, INCLUDING CRISIS, PERSONAL,
16 MENTAL HEALTH, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING;

17 (5) REVIEW AND IDENTIFY THE BEST MODELS FOR PROVIDING
18 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING STAND-ALONE CENTERS, CENTERS WITH
19 INTEGRATED STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES, COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, CASE
20 MANAGEMENT, AND CRISIS RESOURCES;

21 (6) IDENTIFY CONCERNS IN RURAL AREAS AND WORKFORCE
22 SHORTAGE AREAS;

23 (7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:

24 (I) WAYS TO REDUCE COSTS AND BARRIERS TO PROVIDING
25 ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ON CAMPUS;

26 (II) THE USE OF TELEMEDICINE AND VIDEO CONFERENCING IN
27 THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;

28 (III) THE USE OF HOTLINES AND OTHER MEANS TO DISSEMINATE
29 INFORMATION TO STUDENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ON AND OFF
30 CAMPUS, INCLUDING INFORMATION CONCERNING AVAILABILITY AND FEES; AND

1 **(IV) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH**
2 **COUNSELING SERVICES AND SPECIALIZED COUNSELING SERVICES; AND**

3 **(8) STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ANY OTHER**
4 **MATTERS THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.**

5 **(H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022, AND ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1**
6 **EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMITTEE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND**
7 **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF**
8 **THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION**
9 **COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**
10 **COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, AND THE HOUSE**
11 **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

12 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
13 **1, 2022.**