

# HOUSE BILL 776

F5

11r2040

---

By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**  
3 **Consultation Project – Study and Report**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to perform a thorough  
5 study, analysis, and evaluation of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health  
6 Consultation Project; requiring that, in completing its study, the Department  
7 evaluate Project services, capacity, and integration with existing programs;  
8 requiring the Department to report on progress toward completing certain  
9 recommendations; requiring the Department to consult with certain stakeholders in  
10 carrying out its duties; requiring the Department to report its findings to the  
11 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining a certain  
12 term; and generally relating to the State Department of Education’s study of the  
13 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That:

16 (a) In this section, “Project” means the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health  
17 Consultation Project.

18 (b) (1) The State Department of Education shall perform a thorough study,  
19 analysis, and evaluation of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation  
20 Project.

21 (2) In performing its obligations under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the  
22 Department shall:

23 (i) review the goals of the Project and how effectively those goals  
24 have been met;

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) evaluate the need, throughout the State, for infant and early  
2 childhood mental health care and the capacity of existing Project services to meet that need;

3 (iii) identify any areas in the State where Project services are  
4 insufficient, including the areas where additional services are needed and the areas where  
5 prospective cases cannot be served at all;

6 (iv) evaluate the capacity of the Project to meet the service gaps  
7 identified under item (iii) of this paragraph;

8 (v) examine the feasibility of expanding the Project to cover service  
9 gaps identified under item (iii) of this paragraph that cannot be met using existing  
10 resources;

11 (vi) consider how the Project could be integrated with existing school  
12 psychological services;

13 (vii) consider how the Project could be integrated with publicly funded  
14 prekindergarten programs and how Project services might be integrated with programs  
15 designed to prevent the suspension and expulsion of students under § 7–305.1 of the  
16 Education Article; and

17 (viii) calculate the costs required to expand Project services to  
18 accomplish the actions under items (vi) and (vii) of this paragraph.

19 (3) In carrying out its duties under this subsection, the Department shall  
20 report on any progress made toward completing the recommendations to improve the  
21 Project set forth in the Policy Equity Group, LLC’s July 2019 plan, “Developing an Infant  
22 and Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Development System in Maryland: A Gap  
23 Analysis and Strategic Plan”.

24 (4) In carrying out its duties under this section, the Department shall  
25 consult with and seek input from relevant stakeholders.

26 (c) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department shall report its findings to the  
27 Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General  
28 Assembly.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2021.