

# HOUSE BILL 776

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By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (vi) assess the costs and benefits associated with current Project  
16 staffing qualifications and potential alternative qualification models, including the capacity  
17 for the Project to continue to provide needed services under alternative models;

18 (vii) consider how the Project could be integrated with existing school  
19 psychological services;

20 ~~(viii)~~ (viii) consider how the Project could be integrated with publicly  
21 funded prekindergarten programs and how Project services might be integrated with  
22 programs designed to prevent the suspension and expulsion of students under § 7–305.1 of  
23 the Education Article; and

24 ~~(viii)~~ (ix) calculate the costs required to expand Project services to  
25 accomplish the actions under items ~~(vi) and (vii)~~ (vii) and (viii) of this paragraph.

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

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

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.