

HOUSE BILL 915

J2

11r2645

By: **Delegate Amprey**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other**
3 **Underrepresented ~~Mental~~ Behavioral Health Professionals**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific
5 Islander, and Other Underrepresented ~~Mental~~ Behavioral Health Professionals;
6 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a
7 member of the Workgroup or a certain subgroup from receiving certain
8 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the
9 Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding certain ~~mental~~
10 behavioral health professionals and certain students in the State who are Black,
11 Latino, or otherwise underrepresented in the ~~mental~~ behavioral health profession;
12 authorizing the Workgroup to establish a subgroup for a certain purpose; authorizing
13 a subgroup to include an individual who is not a member of the Workgroup; requiring
14 the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
15 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this
16 Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American
17 Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented ~~Mental~~ Behavioral Health
18 Professionals.

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That:

21 (a) There is a Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and
22 Other Underrepresented ~~Mental~~ Behavioral Health Professionals.

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 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

2 (1) the President of Bowie State University, or the President's designee;

3 (2) the President of Coppin State University, or the President's designee;

4 (3) the President of Morgan State University, or the President's designee;

5 (4) the President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore, or the
6 President's designee; and

7 (5) the following members, appointed by the Secretary of Health:

8 (i) one representative each from at least three different hospital
9 networks in the State that primarily serve Black ~~or Latino~~, Latino, or Asian American
10 Pacific Islander communities;

11 (ii) three representatives from the ~~mental~~ behavioral health
12 profession in the State; ~~and~~

13 (iii) three individuals who provide social services in the State; and

14 (iv) at least two but no more than four representatives of
15 organizations, networks, or associations of behavioral health professionals that:

16 1. are composed of a majority of Black, Latino, Asian
17 American Pacific Islander, or other underrepresented behavioral health professionals; and

18 2. primarily work to represent and support Black, Latino,
19 Asian American Pacific Islander, or other underrepresented behavioral health
20 professionals.

21 (c) The Secretary of Health shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.

22 (d) The University System of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Health
23 jointly shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

24 (e) A member of the Workgroup or any subgroup established under subsection (g)
25 of this section:

26 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup or
27 subgroup; but

28 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
29 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

30 (f) The Workgroup shall:

1 (1) identify and study the shortage of ~~mental~~ behavioral health
2 professionals in the State who are Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, or
3 otherwise underrepresented in the ~~mental~~ behavioral health profession; and

4 (2) assess and make recommendations on incentives or other methods to
5 increase the number of:

6 (i) students who are Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander,
7 or otherwise underrepresented in the ~~mental~~ behavioral health profession who study at an
8 institution of higher education in the State to be ~~mental~~ behavioral health professionals;
9 and

10 (ii) ~~mental~~ behavioral health professionals who are Black, Latino,
11 Asian American Pacific Islander, or otherwise underrepresented in the ~~mental~~ behavioral
12 health profession who provide ~~mental~~ behavioral health services in the State, especially in
13 underserved communities.

14 (g) (1) The Workgroup may establish a subgroup within the Workgroup to
15 assist the Workgroup in carrying out its duties, including by conducting research and
16 producing reports.

17 (2) A subgroup established under paragraph (1) of this subsection may
18 include an individual who is not a member of the Workgroup, including a representative of
19 an insurance carrier or any other relevant expert.

20 (g) (h) On or before July 1, 2022, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
21 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
22 Government Article, the General Assembly.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2023,
25 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
26 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.