

HOUSE BILL 743

J1

5lr2124
CF SB 592

By: **Delegate Bagnall**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Health Care Quality Fund for Community–Based Behavioral**
3 **Health Programs – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Health Care Quality Fund for Community–Based
5 Behavioral Health Programs as a special, nonlapsing fund in the Maryland
6 Department of Health; requiring the Department to pay to the Comptroller certain
7 civil penalties collected from behavioral health programs and the Comptroller to
8 distribute the penalties into the Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be
9 credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Health Care Quality Fund for
10 Community–Based Behavioral Health Programs.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Health – General
13 Section 7.5–405
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – State Finance and Procurement
18 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – State Finance and Procurement
23 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205.
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

26 BY adding to
27 Article – State Finance and Procurement

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)206.
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Health – General**

7 **7.5–405.**

8 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE HEALTH CARE QUALITY FUND**
9 **FOR COMMUNITY–BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.**

10 **(B) THERE IS A HEALTH CARE QUALITY FUND FOR COMMUNITY–BASED**
11 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

12 **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER ALL CIVIL**
13 **PENALTIES COLLECTED FROM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS THAT ARE**
14 **ASSESSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY.**

15 **(2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE PENALTIES TO THE**
16 **FUND.**

17 **(D) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRAINING,**
18 **GRANT AWARDS, DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, OR OTHER PURPOSES DESIGNED TO**
19 **IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE.**

20 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

21 **(F) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**
22 **SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

23 **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**
24 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

25 **(G) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

26 **(1) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER**
27 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION;**

28 **(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

29 **(3) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND**

