

SENATE BILL 896

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CF 0lr1986

By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental
4 Health Treatment; providing for the purpose, composition, chair, and staffing of the
5 Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the
7 Commission to study and make recommendations on certain matters regarding
8 student behavioral health and mental health treatment; requiring the Commission
9 to reports its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
10 Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and
11 generally relating to the Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental
12 Health Treatment.

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

15 (a) There is a Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health
16 Treatment.

17 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to study, evaluate, update, and revise
18 guidelines for student behavioral health and mental health treatment and practices in
19 general, and including school-based health centers.

20 (c) The Commission consists of the following members:

21 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
22 the Senate;

23 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
24 House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) one representative of the Maryland Mental Health Association, designated by the Secretary of Health; and

(4) the following members, designated by the State Superintendent of Schools:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Student Councils;

(ii) one representative of the Public School Superintendent's Association;

(iii) one representative of the State Board of Education;

(iv) one representative who is a school administrator;

(v) one representative who is employed in a school-based health center;

(vi) one representative who is employed as a school nurse; and

(vii) one representative of the Maryland Association of School Psychologists.

(d) The Behavioral Health Administration shall provide staff for the Commission.

(e) (1) The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

(2) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Commission shall:

(1) study behavioral health treatment and practices for students dealing with behavioral health and mental health issues, including scope of practice, age of consent for services, types of service, and duration of treatment;

(2) make recommendations on actions necessary to improve the current practices of student behavioral health treatment, including school-based health centers;

(3) revise guidelines for student behavioral health treatment and practices in school-based health centers; and

(4) research ways to coordinate school-based practices with health care provider practices to improving treatment available for students that need behavioral

1 health or mental health treatment.

2 (g) On or before December 1, 2020, and December 1, 2021, the Commission shall
3 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257
4 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022,
7 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
8 of no further force and effect.