

SENATE BILL 1015

F2, J1

0lr3708
CF HB 1504

By: **Senator Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2020

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in
4 Higher Education; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to submit an interim and a final report to certain committees of the General
9 Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher
11 Education.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher
15 Education.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) two representatives of the University System of Maryland, designated
22 by the Chancellor of the System;

23 (4) two representatives of private nonprofit institutions of higher
24 education, designated by the President of the Maryland Independent College and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 University Association;

2 (5) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland,
3 designated by the Board of Directors of the Association;

4 (6) one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the National Alliance on
5 Mental Illness, designated by the Board of Directors of the Chapter;

6 (7) three members, designated by the Chancellor of the University System
7 of Maryland, each of whom is a family member of an individual who is:

8 (i) enrolled in an institution of higher education on the date the
9 member is designated; or

10 (ii) a former student at an institution of higher education with
11 experience using campus mental health services; and

12 (8) the following members appointed by the Governor:

13 (i) one psychiatrist; and

14 (ii) one nurse psychotherapist experienced in providing mental
15 health services.

16 (c) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House
17 jointly shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

18 (d) (1) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the
19 Task Force.

20 (2) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland shall appoint an
21 individual to assist the Commission with staffing.

22 (e) A member of the Task Force:

23 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

26 (f) The Task Force shall:

27 (1) study the policies and procedures adopted by institutions of higher
28 education in the State regarding access to mental health care and the prevention and
29 treatment of mental illness in students;

30 (2) examine the challenges for institutions of higher education in meeting

1 the demand for mental health services;

2 (3) review best practices for accessing off-campus mental health services;

3 (4) review best practices for, and barriers to, the implementation of
4 counseling services, including crisis, personal, mental health, sexual violence, and
5 substance abuse counseling;

6 (5) review and identify the best models for accessing mental health
7 services, including consideration of stand-alone centers, centers with integrated student
8 health services, comprehensive services, case management, and crisis resources;

9 (6) identify concerns in rural areas and workforce shortage areas;

10 (7) study any other matters the Task Force considers appropriate; and

11 (8) make recommendations regarding:

12 (i) ways to reduce costs and barriers to providing access to mental
13 health services on campus;

14 (ii) the use of telemedicine and video conferencing;

15 (iii) the use of hotlines and other means to disseminate information
16 to students related to mental health services on and off campus, including information
17 concerning availability and fees;

18 (iv) the implementation of general mental health counseling services,
19 and specialized counseling services; and

20 (vi) any other matters the Task Force considers appropriate.

21 (g) (1) On or before December 1, 2020, the Task Force shall submit an interim
22 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
23 the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House
24 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance
25 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

26 (2) On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force shall submit a final
27 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
28 the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House
29 Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance
30 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
32 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years, at the end of May 31, 2022, this
33 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no

1 further force and effect.