

2021 MHAMD BILL LIST

Bill Number	Title	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMD Position	Bill Status
SB 3	Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021	Adds audio-only services to the definition of telehealth, prohibits Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the provider or recipient, and requires insurance carriers to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services.	Griffith	FIN	HB 123	1/27	SUPPORT	
SB 5	Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities	Requires the completion of implicit bias training for purposes of health occupation licensure/certification and renewal.	Griffith	FIN B&T	HB 28	2/2	SUPPORT	
SB 7	Courts – Court Dog Therapy Program – Veterans Treatment Courts	Expands the court dog program to provide therapy dogs for individuals in veterans treatment court.	Simonaire	JPR	HB 186	1/26	SUPPORT	
SB 41	Health – Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)	Allows a minor of any age to consent to mental health treatment without the permission of a parent or guardian.	Augustine	FIN	HB 132	2/2	MONITOR	
SB 52	Public Health – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)	Establishes a commission to examine the impact of various social determinants on the health of Maryland residents; provide advice regarding issues	Washington	FIN	HB 78	2/2	SUPPORT	

		of racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities; and make recommendations to reduce health disparities.						
SB 56	Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Telemedicine Reimbursement – Sunset Termination	Removes the sunset on a provision allowing psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners to participate on assertive community treatment (ACT) teams remotely via telehealth.	Eckardt	FIN	HB 191	1/27	SUPPORT	
SB 74	Police Officers – Mental Health Employee Assistance Programs	Requires all law enforcement agencies to develop employee assistance programs to provide officers with access to an array of mental health services.	Washington	JPR	HB 88	1/20	MONITOR	
SB 96	Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety and Community Relations Plans	Requires behavioral health programs to develop, as a condition of licensure, a safety plan for individuals served by the program and a community relations plan.	McCray	FIN		1/26	MONITOR	
SB 115	Baltimore City and Prince George’s County – Diversionary and Reentry Program	Requires State’s Attorneys in Baltimore City and Prince George’s County to establish programs to deliver counseling, job training, housing and related services to at-risk children and youth.	Patterson	JPR	HB 68	2/3	MONITOR	
SB 161	Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education	Establishes a task force to study and make recommendations on a range of issues related to the availability of mental health	Eckardt	EHE	HB 244	1/20	SUPPORT	

		services at institutions of higher education.						
SB 164	Veterans – Behavioral Health Services – Mental Health First Aid	Requires that services for veterans and their families coordinated by the Department of Health include Mental Health First Aid.	Simonaire	FIN	HB 605	1/26	SUPPORT	
SB 168	Public Health – Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee	Establishes a program to review Maryland suicide deaths, make determinations regarding the factors that contribute to suicide deaths, and develop strategies to prevent future suicide deaths.	Eckardt	FIN	HB 209	1/26	SUPPORT	
SB 172	Maryland Health Equity Resource Act	Establishes a program to provide grants, tax incentives, and health care provider loan repayment assistance to locations across the state with health inequities and poor health outcomes. Creates a special fund to support the program and provide additional funding for community behavioral health services.	Hayes	B&T FIN	HB 463	1/27	SUPPORT	
SB 204	Health Care Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Memory Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Unit Regulations	Requires the Department of Health to adopt regulations establishing standards for memory care and Alzheimer’s units in assisted living programs, including staff training requirements, staff ratios, adjustments to reduce social isolation of residents, and	Beidle	FIN	HB 416	2/11	SUPPORT	

		admissions and discharge criteria						
SB 211	Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)	Creates a program to provide up to 12 weeks of paid family leave to workers who need time to care for ailing relatives.	Hayes	FIN	HB 375	1/28	SUPPORT	
SB 231	Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course – Development, Implementation, and Reporting	Requires state agencies to develop and publish a cyber safety guide and training course on safe Internet, social media, and technology usage for students, parents, and school employees.	Hester	EHE	HB 824	1/27	SUPPORT	
SB 275	Maryland Department of Health – Residential Service Agencies – Training Requirements	Requires regular training for staff at residential service agencies related to Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.	Hester	FIN	HB 141	2/4	SUPPORT	
SB 278	State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health – Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards – Telehealth	Emergency measure that eliminates an approval process that limits the ability of school-based health centers to provide telehealth services.	Kagan	EHE	HB 34	1/20	SUPPORT	
SB 279	Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program	Provides for the establishment of 6 overdose prevention sites throughout Maryland.	Hettleman	FIN	HB 396	1/26	SUPPORT	
SB 286	Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services – Modifications	Expands funding for the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program.	Augustine	FIN B&T	HB 108	2/9	SUPPORT	
SB 299	Human Services – Trauma-Informed Care – Commission and Training	Establishes a commission to develop a strategy for ensuring	Carter	FIN	HB 548	2/11	SUPPORT	

		a trauma-responsive state government.						
SB 313	Maryland Department of Health – Public Health Outreach Programs – Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer’s Disease, and Other Types of Dementia	Requires the Department of Health to include information about dementia in its public outreach materials.	Washington	EHE	HB 119	1/26	SUPPORT	
SB 327	Civil Actions – Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults (Maryland SAFE Act)	Establishes a path for vulnerable adults who are victims of financial exploitation to file a noncriminal lawsuit.	Waldstreicher	JPR		2/2	MONITOR	
SB 393	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services	Adds audio-only services to the definition of telehealth, prohibits Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the provider or recipient, requires insurance carriers and Medicaid to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services, and protects the consumer’s right to choose a telehealth or in-person visit.	Augustine	FIN	HB 551	1/27	SUPPORT	
SB 398	Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Procedures	Allows certain providers to escort individuals for emergency petitions in place of a police officer.	Carter	FIN	HB 537	2/9	MONITOR	
SB 399	Maryland Transit Administration – Disabled Reduced Fare Program for Opioid Treatment	Allows Opioid Treatment Programs to issue ID cards to participating patients to receive reduced fare for MTA transit.	Carter	FIN		2/3	SUPPORT	

	Program Patients - Modifications							
SB 405	Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information	Requires higher education institutions that provide student identification cards to include the telephone number of Maryland’s Helpline and the option of additional mental health crisis hotlines.	Augustine	EHE	HB 466		SUPPORT	
SB 425	Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences	Creates a workgroup to study, make recommendations, and take certain actions related to ACE screening and referral in primary care and school settings, expansion of state- and county-level data collection, and coordination of agencies to link youth and families to services.	Augustine	FIN	HB 783	2/16	SUPPORT	
SB 466	Certificates for Involuntary Admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical	Allows an LCSW-C to serve as one of the two clinicians required to certify an involuntary psychiatric commitment.	West	FIN	HB 689	2/16	MONITOR	
SB 500	Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact	An agreement between states allowing psychologists in participating states to practice across state lines	Lam & Hettleman	EHE			SUPPORT	
SB 520	Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements – Children and Young Adults – Reports Modifications	Expands annual data collection related to children’s behavioral health to include race/demographic information and information related to the	Klausmeier	FIN			SUPPORT	

		availability of telehealth services.						
SB 550	Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Establishment	Establishes a matching grant program to support nonprofit organizations serving the behavioral health needs of service members and veterans.	Beidle	FIN B&T			SUPPORT	
SB 557	Suicide Treatment Improvements Act	Requires suicide counseling training for crisis hotline staff; outlines specific suicide-related requirements for state psychiatric facilities; prohibits insurance providers from charging deductibles/co-pays for counseling and assessment of suicidal individuals; requires the Police Training Commission to implement standards to ensure officers appropriately engage suicidal individuals.	Young	FIN	HB 442	2/17	SUPPORT	
SB 565	Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information	Requires the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collect and analyze data on the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals licensed or certified by a health occupations board.	Griffith	EHE	HB 309		SUPPORT	
SB 567	Telehealth Services – Expansion	Adds audio-only services to the definition of telehealth, prohibits Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the provider or recipient, and requires	Administration	FIN	HB 731	2/17	SUPPORT	

		insurance carriers to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services.						
SB 638	Maryland Insurance Commissioner – Specialty Mental Health Services and Payment of Claims – Enforcement	Requires the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to enforce the prompt payment of claims submitted by behavioral health providers to the state Administrative Services Organization.	Augustine	FIN				SUPPORT
SB 646	Alcohol and Drug Counseling – Alcohol and Drug Trainees – Practice Through Telehealth	Allows individuals pursuing drug and alcohol counseling certifications to practice counseling through telehealth under approved supervision.	Carozza	EHE				SUPPORT
HB 28	Public Health – Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities	Requires the completion of implicit bias training for purposes of health occupation licensure/certification and renewal.	Pena-Melnyk	HGO	SB 5	1/26		SUPPORT
HB 29	Health – Standards for Involuntary Admissions and Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Substance Use Disorder	Provides for an individual with a substance use disorder to be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility.	Ivey	HGO		2/2		OPPOSE
HB 34	State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health – Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards - Telehealth	Emergency measure that eliminates an approval process that limits the ability of school-based health centers to provide telehealth services.	Rosenberg	HGO W&M	SB 278	1/27		SUPPORT
HB 68	Baltimore City and Prince George’s County –	Requires State’s Attorneys in Baltimore City and Prince	T. Branch	JUD	SB 115	Hearing Canceled		MONITOR

	Diversory and Reentry Program	George's County to establish programs to deliver counseling, job training, housing and related services to at-risk children and youth.						
HB 78	Public Health – Maryland Commission on Health Equity (The Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act of 2021)	Establishes a commission to examine the impact of various social determinants on the health of Maryland residents; provide advice regarding issues of racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities; and make recommendations to reduce health disparities.	Pena-Melnyk	HGO	SB 52	1/26	SUPPORT	
HB 88	Police Officers – Mental Health Employee Assistance Programs	Requires all law enforcement agencies to develop employee assistance programs to provide officers with access to an array of mental health services.	Brooks	JUD	SB 74	1/19	MONITOR	
HB 108	Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services – Modifications	Expands funding for the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program.	Charkoudian	HGO	SB 286	2/2	SUPPORT	
HB 119	Maryland Department of Health – Public Health Outreach Programs – Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia	Requires the Department of Health to include information about dementia in its public outreach materials.	Sample-Hughes	HGO	SB 313	1/19	SUPPORT	
HB 123	Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021	Adds audio-only services to the definition of telehealth, prohibits Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the provider or	Pena-Melnyk	HGO	SB 3	1/27	SUPPORT	

		recipient, and requires insurance carriers to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services.						
HB 132	Health – Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)	Allows a minor of any age to consent to mental health treatment without the permission of a parent or guardian.	Bagnall	HGO	SB 41	2/16	MONITOR	
HB 141	Maryland Department of Health – Residential Service Agencies – Training Requirements	Requires regular training for staff at residential service agencies related to Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.	Sample-Hughes	HGO	SB 275	1/19	SUPPORT	
HB 186	Courts – Court Dog Therapy Program – Veterans Treatment Courts	Expands the court dog program to provide therapy dogs for individuals in veterans treatment court.	Malone	JUD	SB 7	1/28	SUPPORT	
HB 191	Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Telemedicine Reimbursement – Sunset Termination	Removes the sunset on a provision allowing psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners to participate on assertive community treatment (ACT) teams remotely via telehealth.	Kelly	HGO	SB 56	1/27	SUPPORT	
HB 207	Nursing Homes – Resident Change in Condition – Notification	Consistent with state and federal confidentiality laws, requires a nursing home to notify a resident’s family members within 24 hours upon a change in condition, including the onset of depression.	Wilson	HGO		2/3	SUPPORT	

HB 209	Public Health – Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee	Establishes a program to review Maryland suicide deaths, make determinations regarding the factors that contribute to suicide deaths, and develop strategies to prevent future suicide deaths.	Belcastro	HGO	SB 168	1/26	SUPPORT	
HB 212	Criminal Procedure – Medical Emergency – Immunity	Expands legal protections provide to individuals who seek medical assistance for a person experiencing a medical emergency after ingesting alcohol or drugs.	Cardin	JUD		1/27	SUPPORT	
HB 235	Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment	Requires substance use disorder screening of pregnant incarcerated individuals and referral to a behavioral health provider as necessary for counseling and/or initiation or continuation of medication.	W. Fisher	JUD		1/26	SUPPORT	
HB 244	Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education	Establishes a task force to study and make recommendations on a range of issues related to the availability of mental health services at institutions of higher education.	Valentino-Smith	APP	SB 161	1/20	SUPPORT	
HB 276	Congregate Care Facilities – Visitation	Requires certain congregate care facilities to allow family visitors unless the facility determines it would endanger the resident or staff. If they do make such a determination, they must allow an alternative means of communication.	Henson	HGO		2/2	SUPPORT	

HB 309	Public Health – Data – Race and Ethnicity Information	Requires the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to collect and analyze data on the racial and ethnic composition of all individuals licensed or certified by a health occupations board.	Pena-Melnyk	HGO		1/26	SUPPORT	
HB 347	Criminal Law – Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual – Undue Influence	Adds factors a court must consider when determining whether property has been taken from a vulnerable adult via domination, influence, or excessive persuasion	Shetty	JUD		1/14	MONITOR	
HB 375	Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)	Creates a program to provide up to 12 weeks of paid family leave to workers who need time to care for ailing relatives.	Valderrama	ECM	SB 211	2/23	SUPPORT	
HB 377	Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment	Establishes a commission to study and revise guidelines for student behavioral health treatment and practices.	Bagnall	W&M		2/3	MONITOR	
HB 396	Public Health – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program	Provides for the establishment of 6 overdose prevention sites throughout Maryland.	Pena-Melnyk	HGO	SB 279		SUPPORT	
HB 416	Health Care Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Memory Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Unit Regulations	Requires the Department of Health to adopt regulations establishing standards for memory care and Alzheimer’s units in assisted living programs, including staff training requirements, staff ratios, adjustments to reduce	Belcastro	HGO	SB 204	Hearing Canceled	SUPPORT	

		social isolation of residents, and admissions and discharge criteria						
HB 434	Public Health – Telehealth – Health Care Practitioners and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program	Prohibits health occupation boards from disallowing the use of audio-only telehealth	K. Young	HGO		2/10	MONITOR	
HB 442	Suicide Treatment Improvements Act	Requires suicide counseling training for crisis hotline staff; outlines specific suicide-related requirements for state psychiatric facilities; prohibits insurance providers from charging deductibles/co-pays for counseling and assessment of suicidal individuals; requires the Police Training Commission to implement standards to ensure officers appropriately engage suicidal individuals.	K. Young	HGO		2/9	SUPPORT	
HB 461	Public Schools – Student Attendance – Excused Absences for Mental Health Needs	Provides that student absences for mental health needs are lawful absences and requires schools to excuse at least one such absence per quarter.	Washington	W&M		2/3	MONITOR	
HB 462	Residential Rehabilitation Programs – Reporting of Critical Incidents	Requires the Secretary of Health to notify the local authorities 14 days before licensing a residential rehabilitation program, who must also report any critical incident to local authorities	Washington	HGO		2/9	MONITOR	

		within 24 hours to be assessed and evaluated.						
HB 463	Maryland Health Equity Resource Act	Establishes a program to provide grants, tax incentives, and health care provider loan repayment assistance to locations across the state with health inequities and poor health outcomes. Creates a special fund to support the program and provide additional funding for community behavioral health services.	Barron	HGO W&M	SB 172	2/2	SUPPORT	
HB 466	Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information	Requires higher education institutions that provide student identification cards to include the telephone number of Maryland’s Helpline and the option of additional mental health crisis hotlines.	Palakovich Carr	APP	SB 405		SUPPORT	
HB 496	Primary and Secondary Education – Mental Health Services – Expansion (Counselors Not Cops Act)	Removes \$10 million in state funding for school resource officers to be used instead to expand school-based mental health services and supports.	Wilkins	W&M		2/3	SUPPORT	
HB 537	Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Procedures	Allows certain providers to escort individuals for emergency petitions in place of a police officer.	Ruth	HGO	SB 398	2/16	MONITOR	
HB 548	Human Services – Trauma-Informed Care – Commission and Training	Establishes a commission to develop a strategy for ensuring a trauma-responsive state government.	R. Lewis	HGO	SB 299	2/9	SUPPORT	

HB 551	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services	Adds audio-only services to the definition of telehealth, prohibits Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the provider or recipient, requires insurance carriers and Medicaid to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services, and protects the consumer’s right to choose a telehealth or in-person visit.	Bagnall	HGO	SB 393	2/10	SUPPORT	
HB 560	Human Relations – Discrimination in Housing – Reentry-Into-Society Status	Prohibits housing discrimination based on a prior criminal record	Fennell	E&T		2/9	SUPPORT	
HB 605	Veterans – Behavioral Health Services – Mental Health First Aid	Requires that services for veterans and their families coordinated by the Department of Health include Mental Health First Aid.	Kipke	HGO	SB 164	2/9	SUPPORT	
HB 670	Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021	Omnibus police reform measure that repeals the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights, restricts “no-knock” search warrants, provides tuition exemption for those intending to become a police officer, etc.	Jones	JUD		2/9	LETTER OF INFO	
HB 689	Certificates for Involuntary Admission – Licensed Certified Social Worker - Clinical	Allows an LCSW-C to serve as one of the two clinicians required to certify an	McComas	HGO	SB 466	2/16	MONITOR	

		involuntary psychiatric commitment.						
HB 731	Telehealth Services – Expansion	Adds audio-only services to the definition of telehealth, prohibits Medicaid from limiting the delivery of telehealth based on the location of the provider or recipient, and requires insurance carriers to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services.	Administration	HGO	SB 567	2/10	SUPPORT	
HB 783	Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences	Creates a workgroup to study, make recommendations, and take certain actions related to ACE screening and referral in primary care and school settings, expansion of state- and county-level data collection, and coordination of agencies to link youth and families to services.	Queen	HGO W&M	SB 425		SUPPORT	
HB 824	Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course – Development, Implementation, and Reporting	Requires state agencies to develop and publish a cyber safety guide and training course on safe Internet, social media, and technology usage for students, parents, and school employees.	P. Young	W&M	SB 231	2/12	SUPPORT	
HB 872	Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Establishment	Establishes a matching grant program to support nonprofit organizations serving the behavioral health needs of for service members and veterans.	Charles	HGO APP	SB 550		SUPPORT	

KEY

APP – House Appropriations Committee

B&T – Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

ECM – House Economic Matters Committee

EHE – Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

E&T – House Environment and Transportation Committee

FIN – Senate Finance Committee

HGO – House Health and Government Operations Committee

JPR – Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

JUD – House Judiciary Committee

W&M – House Ways and Means Committee