

HOUSE BILL 829

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By: **Delegates Alston, Acevero, Bagnall, Feldmark, Guzzone, S. Johnson, R. Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, M. Morgan, Taveras, White Holland, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Service Sector Employees – Mental Health First Aid Training**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health, subject to the
4 limitations of its budget, to provide a virtual mental health first aid training program
5 for service sector employees; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, subject
6 to the limitations of its budget and in coordination with the Maryland Department
7 of Labor and the Public Service Commission, to develop a public awareness campaign
8 related to the training program; and generally relating to mental health first aid
9 training.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 13–5201 through 13–5203 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 52. Mental
13 Health First Aid Training for Service Sector Employees”
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2023 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Public Utilities
18 Section 10–101(a), (l), and (m)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Health – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**SUBTITLE 52. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR SERVICE SECTOR
EMPLOYEES.**

13-5201.

**(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.**

**(B) “BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES” MEANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.**

**(C) (1) “CRISIS SERVICES” MEANS TEMPORARY SERVICES DESIGNED TO
ADDRESS AND STABILIZE A SEVERE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEM AND TO AVOID
AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.**

**(2) “CRISIS SERVICES” INCLUDES HOTLINES, IN-HOME SUPPORT,
AND RESIDENTIAL CRISIS SERVICES.**

(D) “MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID” MEANS:

**(1) RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO INDICATORS OF MENTAL
ILLNESS AND BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS, INCLUDING DEPRESSION, TRAUMA,
VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE; AND**

**(2) IDENTIFYING PROFESSIONAL AND SELF-HELP RESOURCES TO
HELP INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS.**

**(E) (1) “SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEE” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE
PRIMARY JOB FUNCTION FREQUENTLY RESULTS IN INTERACTIONS WITH MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC.**

(2) “SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEE” INCLUDES:

(I) A CASHIER;

(II) A RETAIL STORE EMPLOYEE;

(III) A TAXI DRIVER; AND

**(IV) A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR, AS DEFINED IN
§ 10-101 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.**

13-5202.

(A) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE.

(B) THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) A LEVEL OF DETAIL SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THE TRAINING ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, BUT BE MODULAR AND SUCCINCT SO AS TO BE PRACTICAL FOR SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM; AND

(2) IN THE CONTEXT OF A SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEE'S EMPLOYMENT:

(i) HOW TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO SIGNS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS; AND

(ii) A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND CRISIS SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEE OR AN INDIVIDUAL IN DISTRESS ENCOUNTERED BY THE SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEE.

(C) THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

(1) INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY;

(2) INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL IN DISTRESS;

(3) INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND SELF-HELP RESOURCES; AND

(4) DECREASING STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS.

13-5203.

(A) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, SHALL CONDUCT A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE AWARENESS AMONG SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES OF THE AVAILABILITY

1 OF VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR SERVICE SECTOR
2 EMPLOYEES.

3 (B) THE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MAY INCLUDE:

4 (1) ADVERTISEMENTS; AND

5 (2) COMMUNICATIONS TO LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS.

6 Article – Public Utilities

7 10–101.

8 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (l) “Transportation network company” means a company that operates in the
10 State using a digital network to connect passengers to transportation network operators or
11 transportation network partners for transportation network services.

12 (m) “Transportation network operator”, “transportation network partner”, or
13 “transportation network driver” means an individual who:

14 (1) has been issued a transportation network operator’s license, or is
15 otherwise authorized, by the Commission to provide transportation network services;

16 (2) receives, through a transportation network company’s digital network
17 application, a connection to a potential passenger to transport the passenger between
18 points chosen by the passenger in exchange for the payment of a fee to the transportation
19 network company; and

20 (3) uses a motor vehicle that is owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for
21 use by the individual and is approved for use in providing transportation network services
22 by the Commission.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2024.