

HOUSE BILL 829

J1

4lr0766

By: Delegates Alston, Acevero, Bagnall, Feldmark, Guzzone, S. Johnson, R. Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, M. Morgan, Taveras, White Holland, and Woods Woods, Pena-Melnyk, Cullison, Bhandari, Chisholm, Hill, Hutchinson, Kaiser, Kipke, Lopez, and Rosenberg

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Service Sector Employees – Mental Health ~~First Aid~~ Awareness**
3 **and Skills Building Training**

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

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 13–5201 through 13–5203 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 52. Mental
15 Health ~~First Aid~~ Awareness and Skills Building Training for Service Sector
16 Employees”
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2023 Replacement Volume)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

20 Article – Public Utilities

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Section 10–101(a), (l), and (m)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

**SUBTITLE 52. MENTAL HEALTH ~~FIRST-AID~~ AWARENESS AND SKILLS BUILDING
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~~ AWARENESS AND SKILLS BUILDING”
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~~ AWARENESS AND SKILLS BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE.

(B) THE MENTAL HEALTH ~~FIRST-AID~~ AWARENESS AND SKILLS BUILDING 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~~ AWARENESS AND SKILLS BUILDING 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 OF VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH ~~FIRST-AID~~ AWARENESS AND SKILLS BUILDING TRAINING FOR SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES.

(B) THE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MAY INCLUDE:

(1) ADVERTISEMENTS; AND

(2) COMMUNICATIONS TO LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE HOLDERS.

Article – Public Utilities

10-101.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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