

# HOUSE BILL 1184

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By: **Delegates Angel, Cullison, Hayes, Kelly, Sample–Hughes, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study the Effect of Poverty on the Behavioral Health of Children**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland  
4 State Department of Education, the Department of Human Resources, and certain  
5 other parties to establish a workgroup to study the effect of poverty on the behavioral  
6 health of children; requiring the workgroup to review certain studies and methods  
7 and to make certain recommendations; requiring the workgroup, on or before a  
8 certain date, to submit a certain report to the Governor and certain committees of  
9 the General Assembly; and generally relating to a workgroup to study the effect of  
10 poverty on the behavioral health of children.

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

13 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland State  
14 Department of Education, the Department of Human Resources, and other parties as  
15 determined appropriate by the departments shall establish a workgroup to study the effect  
16 of poverty on the behavioral health of children.

17 (b) In conducting the study, the workgroup shall:

18 (1) review studies on the link between poverty and Post–Traumatic Stress  
19 Disorder and other behavioral health issues in children;

20 (2) review studies on the effect of Post–Traumatic Stress Disorder on  
21 children living in poverty and on school performance;

22 (3) review methods to identify and meet the needs of students living in  
23 poverty who are at risk for Post–Traumatic Stress Disorder and other behavioral health  
24 issues; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (4)    make recommendations for identifying and meeting the needs of  
2 students living in poverty who are at risk for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other  
3 behavioral health issues.

4           (c)    On or before December 31, 2016, the workgroup shall submit a report to the  
5 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate  
6 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and  
7 Government Operations Committee on the findings and recommendations of the  
8 workgroup.

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
10 1, 2016.