

# SENATE BILL 888

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By: **Senator Hayes**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Local Behavioral Health Authorities and Oversight of Behavioral**  
3 **Health Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a local behavioral health authority to hire its own  
5 inspectors to monitor behavioral health program quality and safety; requiring a local  
6 behavioral health authority to track complaints against behavioral health programs  
7 and health care providers working at the programs and to forward certain complaint  
8 information to certain licensing boards for a certain purpose; requiring a behavioral  
9 health program to seek community input when adopting its agreement to cooperate  
10 with a local behavioral health authority; and generally relating to local behavioral  
11 health authorities and the oversight of behavioral health programs.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Health – General

14 Section 7.5–1001 through 7.5–1004 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Local  
15 Behavioral Health Authorities and Oversight of Behavioral Health Programs”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 **SUBTITLE 10. LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES AND OVERSIGHT OF**  
22 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.**

23 **7.5–1001.**

24 **(A) A LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY MAY HIRE ITS OWN**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 INSPECTORS TO MONITOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM QUALITY AND SAFETY.

2 (B) AN INSPECTOR HIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL  
3 BE IN ADDITION TO, AND NOT IN PLACE OF, THE INSPECTORS EMPLOYED BY THE  
4 DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE INSPECTIONS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

5 (C) A LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SHALL:

6 (1) TRACK COMPLAINTS AGAINST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS  
7 AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WORKING AT THE PROGRAMS; AND

8 (2) FORWARD ANY COMPLAINT INFORMATION RELATING TO A  
9 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AT A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO THE APPLICABLE  
10 REGULATORY BOARD FOR THE PROVIDER UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS  
11 ARTICLE TO ENSURE THAT THE BOARD HAS THE INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF  
12 LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE PROVIDER.

13 **7.5–1002.**

14 A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM SHALL SEEK COMMUNITY INPUT WHEN  
15 ADOPTING A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH A LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
16 AUTHORITY THAT PROVIDES FOR COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IN CARRYING  
17 OUT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN A LOCAL JURISDICTION.

18 **7.5–1003.**

19 THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS  
20 SUBTITLE.

21 **7.5–1004.**

22 (A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL  
23 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE  
24 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
25 OF THIS SECTION.

26 (B) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
27 AUTHORITIES SHALL PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATION WITH THE INFORMATION IT  
28 REQUIRES TO COMPLETE THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
29 SECTION.

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