







**Legend:** ■ Favorable result ■ Mixed Result ■ Unfavorable result

Score	Bill Number/Title	Status	Impact
<b>Address Maryland's behavioral health workforce shortage</b>			
	<b>Behavioral Health Administration FY2025 Budget</b> Full funding and a 3% provider rate increase	Passed	Governor Wes Moore introduced a budget with full funding for the Behavioral Health Administration, including more than \$80 million in new investments and a 3% behavioral health provider rate increase. The General Assembly maintained these funding levels in their final FY25 budget. These rate increases will go into effect on July 1, 2024. BHSB supported the effort.
	<b>HB0034/SB0204</b> Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact	Failed to advance	This bill would have made it easier for out-of-state licensed social workers to work in Maryland, helping to fill an existing shortage. It stalled in the Senate due to concerns that it would interfere with an existing work group that is considering changes to the Maryland social work exam and licensure process. BHSB supported this bill.
	<b>HB0649/SB0525</b> Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work - Wage Range Transparency	Passed	This bill will require employers to provide wage/salary and benefit information on all job postings. This transparency will help address racial and gender inequities and support a more diverse behavioral health workforce. BHSB supported this bill.
<b>Expand the peer workforce and further integrate these professionals into the system of care</b>			
	<b>HB0980/SB0751</b> Public Health - Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund - Revisions	Passed with significant amendments	This bill originally would have dedicated funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) to support recovery programs, which provide nonclinical behavioral health services, often through peers. It was amended to remove that provision and now clarifies that recovery programs are eligible for ORF funding. BHSB supported this bill as introduced.
<b>Sustainably fund Maryland's 988 helpline and related behavioral health crisis response services</b>			
	<b>HB0284/SB0122</b> Education - Provision of Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline Telephone Number - Alteration	Passed	This bill will require school handbooks and IDs to include information about 988. BHSB supported this bill.
	<b>HB0460</b> State Highway Administration - Dynamic Message Sign System - Maryland's Helpline	Withdrawn	This bill would have promoted 988 on state highway LED signs but was withdrawn due to conflicts with federal highway regulations. BHSB supported this bill.



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	<b>HB0933/SB0974</b> Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund Fees	Passed	This bill establishes a 25 cents per month 988 telecom fee as a permanent funding source for Maryland's 988 Trust Fund. It will generate more than \$25 million in new revenue for 988 helplines and related crisis services. This was a top priority for BHSB.
<b>Strengthen and expand quality behavioral health services for children, youth, and families</b>			
	<b>HB0694/SB0482</b> Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)	Passed with significant amendments	This bill establishes a new grant designed to advance place-based strategies to reduce child poverty. The bill was amended to align the neighborhoods served by this grant with those identified as high need by the Maryland Department of Education. It also now incorporates more community engagement and coordination with local government. BHSB supported this bill and supports the amendments made by the General Assembly.
	<b>HB1040/SB0876</b> Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Limited Behavioral Health Services	Failed to advance	This bill would have allowed children and youth to receive basic behavioral health services such as therapy and counseling without needing to be diagnosed with a behavioral health disorder. This is important because it is difficult to diagnose young people accurately and premature diagnoses can have long-lasting negative effects. This bill failed to advance due to concerns about increased utilization and costs. BHSB supported this bill.
	<b>SB0991</b> Behavioral Health - Language Assistance Services Pilot Program	Passed	This bill establishes a small pilot program to reimburse behavioral health providers who can provide direct language assistance to children and youth in need of behavioral health services. BHSB supported this bill.
<b>Establish Overdose Prevention Sites and other harm reduction and recovery strategies to prevent fatal overdose</b>			
	<b>HB0706</b> Drug Paraphernalia for Administration - Decriminalization	Failed to advance	This bill would have decriminalized possession of drug paraphernalia, thereby protecting harm reduction staff and program participants from potential criminal sanctions. The bill failed to advance out of committee. BHSB supported this bill.
	<b>HB1096/SB0427</b> Public Health - Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program	Failed to advance	This bill would have created a state demonstration program to establish several overdose prevention sites (OPS). OPS provide a space to use pre-obtained drugs under medical supervision and are highly effective at preventing fatal overdose. OPS exist in many other countries and New York City. The bill failed to advance out of committee. BHSB supported this bill.



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	<b>HB1155/SB1071</b> Hospitals - Opioid Overdose - Medication-Assisted Treatment	Passed	This bill requires all hospitals across the state to have protocols to provide evidence-based treatment for opioid-related emergencies, including appropriate medications for opioid use disorder. Most hospitals in Baltimore City already have such protocols and this will be impactful in other parts of the state. BHSB did not take a position on this bill.
	<b>HB1245/SB1075</b> Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death (Victoria and Scottie's Law)	Failed to advance	This bill would have created a new criminal penalty enhancement for those found guilty of distributing heroin or fentanyl that led to a fatal overdose. BHSB opposed this bill because penalty enhancements are ineffective at deterring drug use and are counterproductive for harm reduction efforts. The bill failed to advance. BHSB opposed this bill.
	<b>SB1099</b> Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings	Passed	This bill creates an initiative to provide the opioid overdose reversal medication naloxone alongside automated external defibrillators in public buildings. BHSB did not take a position on this bill.
<b>Improve quality and accountability within the public behavioral health system</b>			
	<b>HB0576/SB0453</b> Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs	Passed w/significant amendments	This bill requires every jurisdiction to have an assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) program in place by July 1, 2026. AOT programs mandate involuntary outpatient treatment through the courts for individuals diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness who have had numerous psychiatric hospitalizations in the recent past. BHSB proposed amendments to narrow the eligibility requirements and add additional due process protections. Many amendments were adopted including some of those proposed by BHSB.
	<b>HB1048/SB0212</b> Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Alterations	Passed	This bill directs the Commission on Behavioral Health Treatment and Access to consider changes to the state's behavioral health 'carve-out' financing structure and provide recommendations by July 1, 2025. The recommendations from the Commission could result in significant change to the financial structure of the public behavioral health system. BHSB did not take a position on this bill.

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