

SENATE BILL 486

F5, J1

5lr1920

By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Health and Wellness Personnel Assessment and Maryland Council on**
3 **Advancement of School–Based Health Centers**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland
5 Department of Health jointly to conduct an assessment of school health and wellness
6 personnel each year; altering the membership of the Maryland Council on
7 Advancement of School–Based Health Centers; and generally relating to school
8 health and wellness personnel and the Maryland Council on Advancement of
9 School–Based Health Centers.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 19–22A–05(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 19–22A–06(a)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Health – General
22 Section 24–2501 and 24–2502 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. School
23 Health and Wellness Personnel Assessment”
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Health – General

19–22A–05.

(a) There is a Maryland Council on Advancement of School–Based Health Centers in the Department.

19–22A–06.

(a) The Council consists of the following **[15] 16** voting members and 6 ex officio members:

(1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate, as an ex officio member;

(2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House, as an ex officio member;

(3) The Secretary of Health, or a designee of the Secretary, as an ex officio member;

(4) The State Superintendent of Schools as an ex officio member;

(5) The Executive Director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange as an ex officio member;

(6) The Chairman of the Commission, or a designee of the Chairman, as an ex officio member; and

(7) The following **[15] 16** members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) The President of the Maryland Assembly on School–Based Health Care, or a designee of the President;

(ii) Three representatives of school–based health centers, nominated by the Maryland Assembly on School–Based Health Care:

1. From a diverse array of sponsoring organizations; and

2. For at least one of the representatives, from a nursing background;

(iii) One representative of the Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland;

1 (iv) One representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of
2 Education;

3 (v) One elementary school principal of a school that has a
4 school-based health center;

5 (vi) One secondary school principal of a school that has a
6 school-based health center;

7 (vii) One representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;

8 (viii) One representative of the Maryland Association of County
9 Health Officers;

10 (ix) One representative of a federally qualified health center,
11 nominated by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers;

12 (x) One representative of a managed care organization;

13 (xi) One representative of a commercial health insurance carrier;

14 (xii) One pediatrician, nominated by the Maryland Chapter of the
15 American Academy of Pediatrics; [and]

16 (xiii) One parent or guardian of a student who utilizes services at a
17 school-based health center; AND

18 (XIV) ONE SCHOOL NURSE, NOMINATED BY THE MARYLAND
19 ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL HEALTH NURSES.

20 **SUBTITLE 25. SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PERSONNEL ASSESSMENT.**

21 **24-2501.**

22 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, "SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PERSONNEL" INCLUDES:**

23 **(1) COUNSELORS;**

24 **(2) DENTAL HYGIENISTS;**

25 **(3) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS;**

26 **(4) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS;**

27 **(5) PHYSICAL THERAPISTS;**

- 1 **(6) SCHOOL COUNSELORS;**
2 **(7) SCHOOL NURSES;**
3 **(8) SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS;**
4 **(9) SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS; AND**
5 **(10) SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS.**

6 **24-2502.**

7 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
8 **JOINTLY SHALL CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS**
9 **PERSONNEL WORKFORCE IN THE STATE EACH YEAR TO:**

10 **(1) IDENTIFY THE RATIO OF SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS**
11 **PERSONNEL TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS BY JURISDICTION;**

12 **(2) OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AND**
13 **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGARDING VACANCY RATES FOR EACH TYPE OF**
14 **PROVIDER OF SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES; AND**

15 **(3) OBTAIN FEEDBACK FROM EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, EACH**
16 **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON STRATEGIES TO**
17 **IMPROVE THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS**
18 **PERSONNEL.**

19 **(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2027, AND EACH DECEMBER 1**
20 **THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
21 **JOINTLY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE**
22 **WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE FINDINGS OF THE**
23 **ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2025.