



Maryland Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits Policy Summary

PRIMARY ISSUES

1. If someone wants to see behavioral health provider and have their insurance pay for it, then they **have to be diagnosed with a mental illness.**
2. **This is not the same for somatic healthcare providers** such as primary care doctors, dentists, optometrists, gynecologists, etc
3. This is an **ethical issue** for therapists and a **parity issue** in healthcare
4. **This excludes behavioral health providers from offering preventative healthcare**

Senate Bill 124

Puts the Head Back On the Body

House Bill 400

Requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to **provide coverage and certain reimbursement for annual behavioral health wellness visits from a behavioral health provider without the requirement of a mental illness diagnosis.**

ESSENCE

- Acknowledges the revolutionary impact of **preventive behavioral healthcare.**
- Aims to **dismantle medical necessity** criteria for behavioral healthcare
- Targets early intervention, **stigma reduction, and cost savings.**

SIMILAR STATE LEGISLATION

- Colorado HB21-1068
- Delaware HB 303
- Massachusetts S3097
- Illinois HB 2847
- Connecticut 2023-HB06643



Your Voice Matters!



Advocate for an annual behavioral health visit whether in person, virtually, or in writing. Testify on Maryland SB124/ HB400.



House Hearing: February 8, 2024, at 1 PM
Senate Hearing: February 13, 2024, at 1 PM

✉ Email mentalhealthpolicy@eyeinme.com to learn about the process. We're happy to assist you in preparing your impactful testimony!

Bill Sponsor: Senator Malcolm Augustine

Co Sponsor: Delagete Jamila Woods et al.

Policy Summary By: Dr. Shatiea Blount, LCSW-C

