

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1485
Health

(Chair, Health Committee)

Public Health - Crisis Response System - Resources for Family Members and
Trauma-Informed Care Training (Tiarra's Law)

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop a pamphlet to inform the public about the Crisis Response System, the State and national 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifelines, and programs provided by the State 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. A health care provider or representative of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) must provide the pamphlet to an individual on request, or when reasonably appropriate in connection with a death, an overdose, or a behavioral health crisis response. MDH must conduct a review of any trauma-informed care training that is provided to health care providers, including training regarding family engagement and post-incident support following overdose or behavioral health crises. By December 1, 2026, MDH must report to the General Assembly on its fundings and recommendations. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH can develop the pamphlet, conduct a review of any trauma-informed care training, and complete the required report with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: “Health care provider” means a health care facility, a health care practitioner, and an individual licensed or certified as an emergency medical services provider.

Crisis Response System

The Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System must include:

- a State 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in each jurisdiction or region to provide (1) a single point of entry to the system; (2) coordination with the national 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline to provide the lifeline's full range of services, including supportive counseling, suicide prevention, crisis intervention, referrals to additional resources, and direct dispatch or warm hand-offs to mobile crisis response and stabilization services and other immediate services as needed; (3) coordination with the local core service agency or local behavioral health authorities, police, local mental health hotlines, emergency medical services personnel, and behavioral health providers; and (4) provide other programs that may include hotlines, walk-in crisis services, critical incident stress management teams, crisis residential beds, transportation coordination, and mobile crisis teams, among others;
- community awareness promotion and training programs; and
- an evaluation of outcomes of services through annual survey by the Behavioral Health Administration of consumers and family members and annual data collection, as specified.

9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Pursuant to Chapters 145 and 146 of 2022 and the federal National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, MDH designated 9-8-8 as the State's behavioral health crisis hotline on July 16, 2022. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources, and best practices for professionals.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

OCME is the statewide agency designated by law to investigate deaths from injury, homicide, suicide, under unusual or suspicious circumstances, or when a person is not attended by a physician. The medical examiner must complete the death certificate after determining the cause and manner of death, which includes the name of the deceased, cause of death and medical certification, date and hour of death, place where death occurred, and place where the body was found.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2026
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