





## Budget amendments and legislation supported by the Behavioral Health Commission 2025 Session

### BUDGET AMENDMENTS


Recommendation / option	Original Patrons	Item	Final Budget
<b>Monitoring of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</b>			
The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), in conjunction with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and other stakeholders, shall examine how Medicaid could best cover the costs of tenancy support and one-time housing assistance as well as clinical services needed by recipients who participate in the PSH program for individuals with a serious mental illness. DMAS should report to the Behavioral Health Commission the steps and resources needed to provide coverage for those services by November 1, 2025.  (Recommendation 1)	<b>Senate:</b> Favola <b>House:</b> McClure	Not included	
The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services shall (i) examine how best to revise its discharge protocols to require state hospitals and Community Services Boards to explore whether Permanent Supportive Housing is a suitable option for all patients, and (ii) develop a statewide training curriculum about the PSH program and how it can successfully be used to integrate individuals with SMI in the community and conduct training with all staff involved in discharge planning.  (Recommendation 2)	<b>Senate:</b> Favola <b>House:</b> Deeds	Not included	
<b>Study of strategies to minimize avoidable arrests of people in crisis and assaults on law enforcement</b>			
Provide \$7.8M in the second year to support the development and establishment of co-response programs between law enforcement officers and clinicians, especially in those localities that have not yet received funding to implement the Marcus Alert system or that are not required to implement such system due to their population size.  (Option 1)	<b>Senate:</b> Perry <b>House:</b> Obenshain	Item 297 LL \$4.8M	
Include language and funding in the Appropriation Act directing DBHDS to establish a program for private psychiatric hospitals to provide funding for those hospitals that agree to increase the percentage of involuntary inpatient admissions they accept and	<b>House:</b> Watts	Not included	

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<p>demonstrate the need for funding to safely admit such patients. Funds could be provided to cover one-time and ongoing costs for creating and filling additional security positions, providing staff training on how to safely treat these patients, and making safety improvements to the facilities.</p> <p>(Option 2)</p>			
<b>Unimplemented recommendations from 2024 Session</b>			
<b>Report on maximizing school-based mental health</b>			
<p>Include in the Appropriation Act (i) \$7.5 million in FY26 to support the School-Based Mental Health Integration Pilot for two additional years, and (ii) language directing DBHDS to develop performance measures for participating sites and for the pilot overall, and to report to the Behavioral Health Commission on the selected performance measures by November 1, 2025.</p> <p>(Option 1)</p>	<b>House:</b> McClure	Not included	<b>X</b>
<b>Other recommendations</b>			
<b>Autism Advisory Council</b>			
<p>Provide \$400,000 to support a new, permanent Autism Commission with 2 full-time staff.</p> <p>(Recommendation 2)</p>	<b>Senate:</b> Aird <b>House:</b> Hope	Not included	<b>X</b>
<b>Behavioral health workforce</b>			
<p>Fund 1 FTE at VHWDA to place greater focus on behavioral health and examine longer-term structure that may be needed. Position would research and develop incentive program for supervisors of clinical college internships; and stipend for students' travel expenses related to internships.</p>	<b>Senate:</b> Deeds <b>House:</b> Willett	Not included	<b>X</b>

## LEGISLATION

Recommendation / option	Patron	Bill number	Final status
<b>BHC staff studies</b>			
<b>Study of strategies to minimize avoidable arrests of people in crisis and assaults on law enforcement</b>			
<b>Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS); training on certain arrests.</b> Requires DCJS to establish a training curriculum for law-enforcement agencies and officers on the discretion such officers can exercise regarding certain arrests. Training must also include research-based information on the impact of arrests on individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.  (Option 3B)	Sen. Deeds	<a href="#">SB 1194</a>	Approved with Governor's recommendation Chapter 619 ✓
	Del. Watts	<a href="#">HB 1712</a>	Approved with Governor's recommendation Chapter 639 ✓
<b>Other recommendations</b>			
<b>Autism Advisory Council</b>			
Make the Autism Advisory Council a permanent commission.  (Recommendation 1)	Sen. Aird	<a href="#">SB 1232</a>	Left in Senate Finance & Appropriations ✗
	Del. Hope	<a href="#">HB 1772</a>	Left in House Appropriations ✗
<b>OSIG</b>			
Add the Behavioral Health Commission to the list of entities that the Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) must keep informed about issues relating to state facilities and other providers of behavioral health services.	Sen. Perry	<a href="#">SB 885</a>	Approved by Governor Chapter 17 ✓
	Del. Campbell	<a href="#">HB 1578</a>	Approved by Governor Chapter 03 ✓

OTHER

Recommendation / option	Final status
Other recommendations	
Alternative placements of individuals with neurocognitive disorders or neurodevelopmental disabilities	
<p><b>BHC letter requesting that the Virginia Autism Advisory Council examine 3 recommendations</b></p> <p>1. Building a continuum of care; Apply for a Medicaid waiver to build and fund a continuum of care with the intent of increasing access to services for those with a primary or solo diagnosis related to a neurocognitive disorder or a neurodevelopmental disability (such as an autism spectrum disorder). The continuum of care should cover community-based services as well as crisis intervention services. Inpatient and residential neurodevelopmental treatment should also be included as part of this plan.</p> <p>2. Custodial interrogation; Prior to any interrogation of a person who is known to have an autism spectrum disorder or a developmental disability or who displays behavior associated with a developmental disability and who has been arrested, contact the person's guardian or next of kin and allow the person to have contact with such guardian or next of kin. This would align with current requirements for juvenile custodial interrogation under the existing code and should include similar exceptions.</p> <p>3. Earlier diversion; Allow defendants diagnosed with autism or a developmental disability to request a hearing to consider a deferred disposition at any time prior to or after any plea. This allows the diversion process to take place earlier, allowing for earlier intervention and working to keep people with autism and developmental disabilities out of the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Communicated </p> <p>Because additional resources were not appropriated to the Council, an in-depth review of these recommendations is unlikely.</p>