

# Legislative Updates: St. Mary's Behavior Health Action Team

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# HB11 / SB902 Health Insurance – Access to Nonparticipating Providers – Referrals, Additional Assistance, and Coverage

- ▶ Current MD law permits health insurance consumers to seek out-of-network care when the insurer does not provide adequate in-network behavioral health services and requires insurers to ensure that consumers pay no more for out-of-network than in-network care under these circumstances.
  - This provision will sunset June 30, 2025
- ▶ HB11 / SB902 repeals the sunset provision
- ▶ Bill Status: Both bills have crossed over
  - HB11: In the Senate – Finance Committee Hearing date TBD
  - SB902: In the House – Health and Government Operations Committee on 3/20 at 1:00pm

# HB869/SB372: Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025

- ▶ The Preserve Telehealth Access Act (2021) required Maryland Medicaid and private insurers to cover and reimburse audio-visual and audio-only telehealth services the same as in-person services.
  - The audio-only telehealth provision will sunset June 30, 2025
- ▶ HB869/SB372 repeals the sunset provision
- ▶ Bill status: Both bills have crossed over
  - HB869: In the Senate – Finance Hearing 3/20 at 1:30pm
  - SB372: In the House – Health and Government Operations Hearing Hearing 3/20 at 1:00pm

# HB345 / SB174 Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

- ▶ Enters Maryland into the Social Work Licensure Compact to authorize regulated social workers who hold multistate licenses to practice social work in member states
  - This would improve public access to competent social work services
- ▶ Bill Status: Both bills have crossed over
  - HB345: In the Senate – Finance Committee Hearing date TBD
  - SB174: In the House – Health and Government Operations Committee Hearing 3/20 at 1:00pm

# HB17/SB 430: Internet Gaming – Authorization and Implementation

- ▶ Creates an authorization and implementation plan for iGaming
- ▶ iGaming allows customers to participate in a full casino experience from anywhere and at any time on an internet-accessible device
- ▶ Proponents:
  - Raises revenue without taxes
  - Captures illegal market
- ▶ Opponents:
  - Accessibility of iGaming platform would likely lead to an increase in gambling addiction rates
  - Increase in potential of underage gambling which can lead adolescents to struggle with their mental health
  - Cannibalization of brick-and-mortar casinos
- ▶ Bill Status: Died in committee

# HB 1318 (SB934): Alcoholic Beverages – Premium Cigar Lounge License – Establishment (Maryland Premium Cigar Lounge Act of 2025)

- ▶ Establishes a Class C–PCL (premium cigar lounge) alcoholic beverages license for use in conjunction with other tobacco product retailer license.
- ▶ This would authorize a local licensing board to issue the license and exempt a holder of the license from the Clean Indoor Air Act.
  - The licensee must sell premium cigars and pipe tobacco, which must be 60% of the licensee’s daily receipts.
  - There is a population limit on how many of these licenses will be granted in each county—one Class C–PCL license per 150,000 residents of a county.
- ▶ HB1318 died in committee.
- ▶ SB935 was withdrawn by sponsor.

# HB1379 / SB824

- ▶ **HB1379**: Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License – Retail Establishments (Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2025)
  - This would allow an establishment that functions as a food retailer, pharmacy, or retail service station selling gasoline, diesel fuel, or offering electric vehicle charging to purchase a Class A license—allowing licensees to sell beer, wine, and liquor for off-premises consumption.
  - HB1379 died in committee.
- ▶ **SB824**: Alcoholic Beverages – Prohibition on Class A Licenses for Chain Stores, Supermarkets, and Discount Houses – Repeal
  - This would repeal a prohibition on board of license commissioners from issuing Class A alcoholic beverages license, allowing licensees to sell beer, wine, and liquor for off-premises consumption, to chain stores, supermarkets, or discount houses.
  - SB824 was withdrawn by sponsor.

# THANK YOU

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