



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst & Sen. Pinkney & Sen. Poore

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

RECOGNIZING THE GROWING NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKERS AND REQUESTING
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GROWING OUR WORKFORCE.

1 WHEREAS, behavioral health services are needed now more than ever in our state and across our nation; and

2 WHEREAS, studies by NAMI and the CDC have shown an increase in mental illnesses as a result of the COVID-
3 19 pandemic further increasing our need for additional behavioral health resources; and

4 WHEREAS, Delaware wants to be a model for behavioral health care services and has done so by establishing
5 standards for minimum ratios of behavioral health staff to students; and

6 WHEREAS, however the data shows that we currently are not training enough people each year to fill these
7 positions with only 400 students graduating each year from behavioral health fields; and

8 WHEREAS, that will leave us behind the goals we have set for our state and we must focus on building a greater
9 pipeline into this critical field; and

10 WHEREAS, without an integrated plan Delaware will continue to lose talent to surrounding states.

11 NOW, THEREFORE:

12 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
13 Senate concurring therein, recognizes that the State is in critical need of behavioral health professionals and must create
14 innovative opportunities for students interested in pursuing these careers.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly requests the Department of Education, its Office of
16 Higher Education, State institutions of higher learning, and Vo-Tech schools work together to create recommendations
17 focusing on the promotion of behavioral health career pathways.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations be submitted by December 31st, 2022, and provided to
19 the Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees, the Governor, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives,
20 and the Secretary of the Senate.

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution recognizes the need for more behavioral health professionals in Delaware and requests the Department of Education to develop recommendations that would improve the current educational opportunities in Delaware for students interested in behavioral health careers.