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Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

Drafted by: Michael
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Checked by _____

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

**Prince George's County – Education – Recognition of External Diagnosis of Autism**

**PG 502–27**

FOR the purpose of requiring a school in Prince George's County to recognize a student's external diagnosis of autism from certain professionals until the school completes an initial evaluation; requiring a school to initiate an evaluation of a student within a certain time frame and under certain circumstances; requiring a school to provide certain supports to a student during a certain evaluation and until a certain determination is made; and generally relating to the recognition of an external diagnosis of autism in public school students in Prince George's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 8–404(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 8–404(e)

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
**[**Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2026 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

8–404.

(a) The State Board shall adopt, as regulations, standards for the identification, evaluation, educational placement, and the provision of a free appropriate public education of each child in this State who has begun the school year under the age of 21 and is found to need special education and related services, whether or not the child is receiving nonduplicative services from another governmental agency.

**(E) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.**

**(2) A SCHOOL SHALL RECOGNIZE A STUDENT'S EXTERNAL DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM FROM A MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH, OR EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONAL AS A DIAGNOSIS UNTIL AN INITIAL EVALUATION OF THE STUDENT IS COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL.**

**(3) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, A MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH, OR EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONAL INCLUDES:**

**(I) A LICENSED DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN;**

**(II) A LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST;**

**(III) A LICENSED PSYCHIATRIST;**

**(IV) A LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER WITH AUTISM DIAGNOSIS TRAINING;**

**(V) A LICENSED SPEECH–LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST WORKING AS PART OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY DIAGNOSTIC TEAM; AND**

**(VI) A LICENSED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST WORKING AS PART OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY DIAGNOSTIC TEAM.**

**(4) A SCHOOL SHALL INITIATE A SCHOOL–BASED EVALUATION OF A STUDENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING:**

**(I) AN EXTERNAL DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM; AND**

**(II) WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE STUDENT'S PARENT.**

**(5) (I) DURING THE EVALUATION PERIOD, A SCHOOL SHALL PROVIDE TO A STUDENT WITH AN EXTERNAL AUTISM DIAGNOSIS THE SUPPORTS RECOMMENDED IN THE DIAGNOSIS.**

**(II) A SCHOOL MAY PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE SUPPORTS TO A STUDENT WHEN A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL OR STATE LAW; OR**

**2. PRESENTS A SAFETY RISK.**

**(III) A SCHOOL SHALL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORTS TO A STUDENT UNTIL:**

**1. THE SCHOOL–BASED EVALUATION IS COMPLETED; AND**

**2. A DETERMINATION IS MADE REGARDING WHETHER A STUDENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUPPORTS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2027.