

**MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS**  
**BILL REVIEW MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2021**  
**9:00 A.M.**

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting to review specific legislative bills on 2/16/2021, beginning at 9:01 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Salliann Alborn  
Mary Backley  
Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN  
Jonathan Dayton  
Jennifer Eastman  
Mychelle Farmer, M.D.  
Roger Harrell  
Rita Kalyani, M.D.  
Jessica Kiel, RDN  
Linda Kline  
Namisa Kramer  
Julie Maneen  
Aruna Nathan, M.D.  
Cameron Pollock  
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.  
Jason Semanoff  
Sara Vazer, M.D.  
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.  
Pamela Williams

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Summit Bassi, M.D.  
Angela Deal  
Lois A. Freeman  
Gary Gerstenblith, M.D.  
Seth Martin, M.D.  
Rachel Pigott  
Vivienne Rose, M.D.  
Kelsie Shannon  
Geeta Sharma  
Afton Thomas, M.D.  
Teresa Titus-Howard, Ph.D.  
Vanina Wolf  
Pamela Xenakis, RDN

**MDH STAFF PRESENT**

Larry McNeely  
Kristi Pier

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

None present.

**I. Open Legislative Bill Review Meeting**

Jessica Kiel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. and reviewed the agenda.

**II. [SB 723 - Maryland Food System Resiliency Council](#) Position Vote**

At the February 9, 2021 Meeting, the Health and Wellness Council approved a motion to submit a letter of support for HB 831. Ms. Kiel stated an additional vote would be necessary to express support for the identical Senate crossfile, because the motion approved February 9<sup>th</sup> was specific to HB 831, not later proposed, similar legislation. Jennifer Eastman offered a motion to support SB 723. Mary Pat Bertacchi seconded. Quorum was established with 19 members present; 14 members voted to approve the motion; and 5 members abstained. The motion to support the bill carried.

**III. Discussion of [HB 1079 - Admissions and Amusement Tax - Exemption - Activities That Promote Health and Physical Well-Being](#)**

Ms. Bertacchi presented the proposed position and letter of support for HB 1079. Ms. Bertacchi noted that removing the tax on physical activity programs can reduce the cost barriers to participation. Salliann Alborn asked about the extent of the savings for families. Ms. Bertacchi said Kristin Watson informed the Legislative Ad Hoc Workgroup of youth soccer team charges totaling \$80-100 per child.

**IV. Discussion of [HB 1296 - Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity \(Student Health and Fitness Act\)](#)**

Ms. Kiel explained how the Council hoped to offer support for the 2020 version of this bill but failed to reach quorum needed to take a position. Jason Semanoff presented on the proposed position and letter of support for HB 1296. The bill sets a goal, not a mandate, of 150 minutes of physical activity weekly for elementary students, 90 of which would be physical education. MSDE would track and publish school's progress toward those goals. Ms. Alborn asked whether the bill's prospects are better without a mandate. Mr. Semanoff explained previous amendments changing the mandate to a goal had been paired with amendments decreasing physical education minutes to sixty. The sponsor may pull the bill if the PE minutes are reduced again.

**V. Public Comment**

There were no comments or questions from the public.

**VI. HB 1079 Position Vote**

Ms. Alborn offered a motion to support HB 1079 and other later proposed similar bills; Jonathan Dayton seconded. Quorum was established with 19 members present; 15

members voted to approve the motion; and 4 members abstained. The motion to submit a letter of support for this bill and similar bills/crossfiles carried.

**VII. HB 1296 Position Vote**

Ms. Alborn offered a motion to support HB 1296 and other later proposed, similar bills. Mychelle Farmer seconded. Quorum was established with 19 members present; 15 members voted to approve the motion; and 4 members abstained. The motion to submit a letter of support for this bill and similar bills/crossfiles carried.

**VIII. Closing**

Ms. Kiel thanked the members of the Council for the time they give to this important work. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM.

## COUNCIL VOTES

### **On the Motion to Support SB 723.**

#### Members Voting to Approve:

Salliann Alborn  
Mary Backley  
Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN  
Jonathan Dayton  
Mychelle Farmer, M.D.  
Roger Harrel  
Rita Kalyani, M.D.  
Jessica Kiel, RDN  
Linda Kline  
Aruna Nathan, M.D.  
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.  
Jason Semanoff  
Sara Vazer, M.D.  
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.

#### Members Voting to Abstain:

Jennifer Eastman  
Namisa Kramer  
Julie Maneen  
Cameron Pollock  
Pamela Williams

### **On the Motion to Support HB 1079 and other later proposed, similar bills.**

#### Members Voting to Approve:

Salliann Alborn  
Mary Backley  
Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN  
Jonathan Dayton  
Mychelle Farmer, M.D.  
Roger Harrel  
Rita Kalyani, M.D.  
Jessica Kiel, RDN  
Linda Kline  
Julie Maneen  
Aruna Nathan, M.D.  
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.  
Jason Semanoff  
Sara Vazer, M.D.  
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.

#### Members Voting to Abstain:

Jennifer Eastman  
Namisa Kramer  
Cameron Pollock  
Pamela Williams

**On the Motion to Support HB 1296 and other later proposed, similar bills.**

Members Voting to Approve the Motion:

Salliann Alborn  
Mary Backley  
Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN  
Jonathan Dayton  
Mychelle Farmer, M.D.  
Roger Harrel  
Rita Kalyani, M.D.  
Jessica Kiel, RDN  
Linda Kline  
Julie Maneen  
Aruna Nathan, M.D.  
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.  
Jason Semanoff  
Sara Vazer, M.D  
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.

Members Voting to Abstain:

Jennifer Eastman  
Namisa Kramer  
Cameron Pollock  
Pamela Williams