

# HOUSE BILL 897

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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Psychiatric Hospitals – Units Licensed as Limited Private Inpatient**  
3 **Facilities**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain hospitals that provide certain care in a unit that is  
5 licensed as a limited private inpatient facility to authorize patients to seek insurance  
6 reimbursement for certain services, bill certain patients in a certain manner, and  
7 provide certain staff assistance; requiring the Office of Health Care Quality, on or  
8 before a certain date, to make a certain report to certain committees of the General  
9 Assembly; and generally relating to units within psychiatric hospitals that are  
10 licensed as limited private inpatient facilities.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Health – General  
13 Section 19–1813  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Health – General**  
19 **19–1813.**

20 **A STATE OR PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL THAT PROVIDES SUBACUTE**  
21 **CARE TO PATIENTS IN A UNIT WITHIN THE HOSPITAL THAT IS LICENSED AS A**  
22 **LIMITED PRIVATE INPATIENT FACILITY SHALL:**

23 **(1) AUTHORIZE PATIENTS IN THE UNIT TO SEEK INSURANCE**  
24 **REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE UNIT;**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(2) BILL PATIENTS RECEIVING SERVICES IN THE UNIT IN A MANNER**  
2 **THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH BILLING STANDARDS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE**  
3 **CARRIERS; AND**

4                   **(3) PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS SEEKING INSURANCE**  
5 **REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE UNIT.**

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,  
7 2019, the Office of Health Care Quality shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and  
8 the House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
9 the State Government Article, on:

10                   (1) the units providing behavioral health services and operating within  
11 psychiatric hospitals that are licensed as limited private inpatient facilities;

12                   (2) whether the licensure of each unit as a limited private inpatient facility  
13 is appropriate;

14                   (3) the number of patients in units providing behavioral health services  
15 and operating within psychiatric hospitals that are licensed as limited private inpatient  
16 facilities who have had all or part of their bills for treatment paid through insurance; and

17                   (4) the percentage of gross revenues of a unit providing behavioral health  
18 services and operating within a psychiatric hospital that is licensed as a limited private  
19 inpatient facility that are paid by the patient, through insurance, or by other entities.

20           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2019.