
By: Senator Kasemeyer

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Hygiene Administration - Director - Qualifications**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the qualifications for the Director of the Mental Hygiene

4 Administration to require that the Director be an individual who hasdemonstrated
5 competence in the field of mental health administration.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article - Health - General

8 Section 10-202(c)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The incumbent Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration in the
13 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has enjoyed widespread support from mental
14 health constituencies statewide in his nearly 8 years in the position, and continues to
15 enjoy strong support; and

16 WHEREAS, If the incumbent Director ever leaves the position, State law requires
17 that the position be filled by a Board-certified physician; and

18 WHEREAS, The current restrictive qualifications could preclude the recruitment
19 of a Director with administrative and managerial skills that the incumbent possesses and
20 that are required for today's complex health care environment; and

21 WHEREAS, More flexible qualifications would not prevent a physician from
22 holding the position, but would also open the position up to other professionals, including
23 the current Deputy Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration and other
24 nonpsychiatrist Mental Hygiene Administration leaders; now, therefore,

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

27 **Article - Health - General**

28 10-202.

29 (c) The Director shall be [a physician who:

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1 (1) Is licensed to practice medicine in this State;

2 (2) Is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology;

3 (3) Has devoted a substantial amount of professional time to the practice of
4 psychiatry; and

5 (4) Has clinical and administrative experience in mental hygiene] AN
6 INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL
7 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 1996.