
By: Senator Kasemeyer

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 1996

CHAPTER ____

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 has demonstrated

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

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1 the current Deputy Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration and other
2 nonpsychiatrist Mental Hygiene Administration leaders; now, therefore,

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

5 **Article - Health - General**

6 10-202.

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

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

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

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

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

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