

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1025

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “Delegate Sher” and substitute “Delegates Sher, Donoghue, Fulton, Goldwater, Kirk, Krysiak, Love, McHale, and Pendergrass”; strike beginning with “Benefits” in line 2 down through “Abuse” in line 3 and substitute “Task Force on Access to Mental Health Treatment for Privately Insured Individuals”; strike beginning with “that” in line 4 down through “insurance” in line 13 and substitute “the Task Force on Access to Mental Health Treatment for Privately Insured Individuals; specifying the duties of the task force; specifying the members of the task force; requiring the Governor to appoint the chairman of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to mental health services”; strike in their entirety lines 14 through 18, inclusive; and in line 20, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows” .

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 21 on page 1 through line 26 on page 4, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Task Force on Access to Mental Health Treatment for Privately Insured Individuals.

(b) The task force consists of the following 13 members:

(1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(Over)

(3) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's designee;

(4) The Maryland Insurance Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee;

(5) The following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) One representative of the commercial health insurance industry;

(ii) One representative of a commercial health maintenance organization;

(iii) One representative of the managed behavioral health care industry;

(iv) One representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;

(v) One representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;

(vi) One representative of the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland; and

(vii) One representative of the pediatric mental health community.

(c) The Governor shall appoint the chairman of the task force.

(d) The task force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

(1) The differences in the coverage of mental health services among the public mental health system, commercial health insurers, and commercial health maintenance organizations;

(2) The structure and effectiveness of the mental health care delivery system in the State; and

(3) Compliance by commercial health insurers and health maintenance organizations with the mental health parity requirements under § 15-802 of the Insurance Article and § 19-703.1 of the Health - General Article.

(e) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2003.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.