
By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Hygiene - Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response
4 System in the Mental Hygiene Administration; requiring the crisis response
5 system to use and coordinate certain services to develop an effective crisis
6 response system to serve all individuals in the State; requiring the crisis
7 response system to provide certain clinical interventions; requiring the crisis
8 response system to respond quickly and effectively to community crisis
9 situations; requiring the Mental Hygiene Administration to consult with certain
10 entities in the development of the crisis response system; requiring the crisis
11 response system to include crisis communication centers, emergency services,
12 follow-up services, community awareness promotion and training programs,
13 and a certain evaluation of outcomes of services; requiring services to be
14 implemented as determined by certain core service agencies; providing that
15 advance directives for mental health services apply to the delivery of services
16 under this Act; and generally relating to the Maryland Mental Health Crisis
17 Response System.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19 Article - Health - General
20 Section 1-101(a), (c), and (j) and 10-101(a) and (b)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

23 BY adding to
24 Article - Health - General
25 Section 10-1401 through 10-1405, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
26 "Subtitle 14. Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System"
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

1

Preamble

2 WHEREAS, There has been a significant increase in the need for community
3 public mental health services and the lack of these services, including comprehensive
4 crisis intervention services and supports, has resulted in an overutilization of costly
5 acute care State hospital beds; and

6 WHEREAS, The Mental Hygiene Administration recommends the
7 establishment of an initiative to identify and provide enhanced community-based
8 services for individuals who are at high risk for repeated hospitalizations,
9 homelessness, criminal arrest, or suicide; and

10 WHEREAS, In the recent report to the Governor by the Community Access
11 Steering Committee, the Committee concluded that one of the major barriers to
12 expanding community access to mental health treatment is the lack of a
13 comprehensive, statewide mental health crisis intervention system as an alternative
14 to hospitalization; and

15 WHEREAS, The recent terrorism attacks, including those of September 11,
16 2001, have resulted in increased anxiety and other mental disorders among citizens
17 throughout the United States, particularly among those who have had previous
18 experiences with trauma, and increased concern about the possibility of future
19 terrorist attacks, warranting the establishment of a comprehensive statewide mental
20 health crisis response system; now, therefore,

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

23

Article - Health - General

24 1-101.

25 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

26 (c) "Department" means the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

27 (j) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

28 10-101.

29 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

30 (b) "Administration" means the Mental Hygiene Administration.

31

SUBTITLE 14. MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

32 10-1401.

33 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
34 INDICATED.

1 (B) "CORE SERVICE AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1201 OF THIS
2 TITLE.

3 (C) "CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM" MEANS THE MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH
4 CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

5 10-1402.

6 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM IN
7 THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION.

8 (B) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHALL:

9 (1) OPERATE A STATEWIDE NETWORK UTILIZING EXISTING RESOURCES
10 AND COORDINATING INTERJURISDICTIONAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP EFFICIENT AND
11 EFFECTIVE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEMS TO SERVE ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE STATE,
12 24 HOURS A DAY AND 7 DAYS A WEEK;

13 (2) PROVIDE SKILLED CLINICAL INTERVENTION TO HELP PREVENT
14 SUICIDES, HOMICIDES, UNNECESSARY HOSPITALIZATIONS, AND ARRESTS OR
15 DETENTION, AND TO REDUCE DANGEROUS OR THREATENING SITUATIONS
16 INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; AND

17 (3) RESPOND QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO COMMUNITY CRISIS
18 SITUATIONS.

19 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSULT WITH CONSUMERS OF MENTAL
20 HEALTH SERVICES, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES IN THE
21 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

22 10-1403.

23 (A) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE:

24 (1) A CRISIS COMMUNICATION CENTER IN EACH JURISDICTION OR
25 REGION TO PROVIDE:

26 (I) A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY TO THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM;

27 (II) COORDINATION WITH THE LOCAL CORE SERVICE AGENCY,
28 POLICE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
29 PROVIDERS; AND

30 (III) SERVICES THAT MAY INCLUDE:

31 1. A HOTLINE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS
32 INTERVENTION;

33 2. A TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH
34 INFORMATION, REFERRAL, AND ASSISTANCE;

1 (C) AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER § 5-
2 602.1 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES UNDER THIS
3 SUBTITLE.

4 (D) THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT PETITIONS FOR
5 EMERGENCY EVALUATIONS UNDER § 10-622 OF THIS TITLE.

6 10-1404.

7 (A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET SUFFICIENT
8 FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM AS FEDERAL FUNDS AND
9 OTHER SOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.

10 (B) THE SECRETARY MAY RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE UNITED
11 STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY FOR THE CRISIS
12 RESPONSE SYSTEM.

13 10-1405.

14 THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM PROVIDERS SHALL CONTRACT WITH SERVICE
15 PROVIDERS WHO EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS WHO USE OR HAVE USED MENTAL HEALTH
16 SERVICES.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
18 effect October 1, 2002.