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By: **Delegates Turner and Nathan-Pulliam**  
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002  
Assigned to: Economic Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Mental Illness - Coverage Period for Children**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that if a health insurance policy provides certain  
4 coverage for treatment of mental illness at a hospital or residential treatment  
5 facility for children of a certain age, the policy's coverage must extend from the  
6 date of admission to the date when the child becomes potentially eligible for  
7 reimbursement under Medicaid; and generally relating to the insurance  
8 coverage period for children who are receiving treatment for mental illness.

9 BY adding to  
10 Article - Insurance  
11 Section 15-416  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1997 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Insurance**

17 15-416.

18 IF A HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR INPATIENT  
19 TREATMENT OF ACUTE OR CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESS AT A HOSPITAL OR  
20 RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS,  
21 THE COVERAGE MUST EXTEND FROM THE DATE OF ADMISSION TO THE HOSPITAL OR  
22 FACILITY TO THE DATE WHEN THE CHILD BECOMES POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR  
23 COVERAGE UNDER THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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