
By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, R. Baker, Benson, Bobo, Branch, Burns,
C. Davis, D. Davis, Dobson, Frush, Fulton, Gladden, Griffith, Grosfeld,
Harrison, Hill, Howard, Hubbard, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kirk, Marriott,
Montague, Oaks, Paige, Patterson, Phillips, Proctor, Rawlings, Swain,
and Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2002
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Hygiene Administration - Community Mental Health Services -**
3 **Minority Populations**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Director of Mental Hygiene to designate a liaison
5 for minority mental health services; specifying the duties of the liaison;
6 requiring the Mental Hygiene Administration to conduct or commission a
7 certain study; specifying certain information to be included in the study;
8 requiring the Administration to report on the findings and recommendations of
9 the study; defining certain terms; and generally relating to community mental
10 health services and minority populations.

11 BY adding to
12 Article - Health - General
13 Section 10-901.1
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Health - General**

19 10-901.1.

20 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER" MEANS AN
21 ORGANIZATION OR AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER
22 THAT PROVIDES COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND:

23 (1) (I) IS A BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH MANAGEMENT
24 AND DAILY BUSINESS OPERATIONS ARE CONTROLLED BY ONE OR MORE MINORITY
25 INDIVIDUALS; OR

1 (II) IS A MINORITY PERSON, AS DEFINED IN § 9-301(D) OF THE
2 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; OR

3 (2) SERVES A POPULATION OF CLIENTS THAT COMPRISES AT LEAST 51
4 PERCENT MINORITY INDIVIDUALS.

5 (B) THE DIRECTOR SHALL DESIGNATE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION A
6 LIAISON FOR MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

7 (C) THE LIAISON FOR MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SHALL:

8 (1) PROVIDE A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH
9 PROVIDERS BY:

10 (I) FACILITATING ACCESS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING;

11 (II) CONDUCTING WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS;

12 (III) PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE;

13 (IV) DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION ABOUT LEGISLATION AND
14 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES RELATING TO MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH
15 PROVIDERS; AND

16 (V) ENGAGING IN ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO
17 STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO OFFER
18 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;

19 (2) ADVISE THE DIRECTOR ON ADMINISTRATIVE, FUNDING, AND OTHER
20 ISSUES THAT MAY ADVERSELY IMPACT MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS; AND

21 (3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR REGARDING HOW TO
22 STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO OFFER
23 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That:

26 (a) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall conduct or commission a study
27 on the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness in the African
28 American community.

29 (b) Where appropriate, the study shall utilize existing resources and data
30 available from such entities as the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Task
31 Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment.

32 (c) The study shall:

33 (1) include data regarding:

1 (i) the incidence of substance abuse among African Americans
2 nationally and in Maryland;

3 (ii) the incidence of mental illness among African Americans
4 nationally and in Maryland;

5 (iii) the number of African American individuals who are dually
6 diagnosed with substance abuse and mental health disorders nationally and in
7 Maryland; and

8 (iv) the availability of services in Maryland to treat dually
9 diagnosed African American individuals;

10 (2) gather best practices regarding outreach and treatment for dually
11 diagnosed African American individuals; and

12 (3) provide recommendations on methods of improving outreach and
13 treatment for dually diagnosed African American individuals in Maryland.

14 (d) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall report to the Governor, the
15 Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, the Senate Education, Health, and
16 Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee
17 on or before January 1, 2003, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
18 Article, on the findings and recommendations of the study.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2002.