

SENATE BILL 556

Unofficial Copy  
J1

2002 Regular Session  
(2r1977)

**ENROLLED BILL**  
-- Finance/Environmental Matters --

Introduced by **Senators Exum and Dorman**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

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Proofreader.

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Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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; providing that the State may not expend more than a certain  
17 amount of State general funds in implementing the Maryland Mental Health

1 Crisis Response System; providing for the funding of this Act requiring the  
2 Administration to implement the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response  
3 System in a certain manner; requiring the crisis response system to contract  
4 with certain service providers; making this Act subject to a certain contingency;  
5 and generally relating to the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article - Health - General  
8 Section 1-101(a), (c), and (j) and 10-101(a) and (b)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

11 BY adding to  
12 Article - Health - General  
13 Section 10-1401 through 10-1405, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle  
14 "Subtitle 14. Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System"  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

17 Preamble

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

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

26 WHEREAS, In the recent report to the Governor by the Community Access  
27 Steering Committee, the Committee concluded that one of the major barriers to  
28 expanding community access to mental health treatment is the lack of a  
29 comprehensive, statewide mental health crisis intervention system as an alternative  
30 to hospitalization; and

31 WHEREAS, The recent terrorism attacks, including those of September 11,  
32 2001, have resulted in increased anxiety and other mental disorders among citizens  
33 throughout the United States, particularly among those who have had previous  
34 experiences with trauma, and increased concern about the possibility of future  
35 terrorist attacks, warranting the establishment of a comprehensive statewide mental  
36 health crisis response system; now, therefore,

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

**Article - Health - General**

1-101.

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

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

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

10-101.

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

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

**SUBTITLE 14. MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.**

10-1401.

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

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

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

10-1402.

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

(B) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHALL:

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

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

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

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

4 10-1403.

5 (A) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE:

6 (1) A CRISIS COMMUNICATION CENTER IN EACH JURISDICTION OR  
7 REGION TO PROVIDE:

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

9 (II) COORDINATION WITH THE LOCAL CORE SERVICE AGENCY,  
10 POLICE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL, AND MENTAL HEALTH  
11 PROVIDERS; AND

12 (III) SERVICES THAT MAY INCLUDE:

13 1. A HOTLINE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS  
14 INTERVENTION;

15 2. A TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH  
16 INFORMATION, REFERRAL, AND ASSISTANCE;

17 3. TRIAGE FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL;

18 4. REFERRAL TO TREATMENT, FAMILY AND PEER SUPPORT  
19 GROUPS, AND OTHER SERVICES AS NEEDED;

20 5. FOLLOW-UP FOR UP TO 1 MONTH;

21 6. COORDINATION OF DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS,  
22 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF AN ON-CALL  
23 SYSTEM FOR THESE SERVICES;

24 7. A COMMUNITY CRISIS BED AND HOSPITAL BED REGISTRY,  
25 INCLUDING A DAILY TALLY OF EMPTY BEDS;

26 8. TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION, ENSURING  
27 TRANSPORTATION OF PATIENTS TO URGENT APPOINTMENTS OR TO EMERGENCY  
28 PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES; AND

29 9. LINKAGE TO 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEMS AND OTHER  
30 TELEPHONE SYSTEMS PROVIDING PUBLIC OR SOCIAL SERVICES;

31 (2) EMERGENCY SERVICES INCLUDING:

32 (I) MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS, CRISIS  
33 INTERVENTION, TREATMENT, FOLLOW-UP, AND REFERRAL TO URGENT CARE, AND

1 TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO OBTAIN PUBLIC MENTAL  
2 HEALTH SERVICES;

3 (II) URGENT CARE; AND

4 (III) EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES;

5 (3) FOLLOW-UP SERVICES INCLUDING:

6 (I) MOBILE TREATMENT TEAMS TO PROVIDE OUTREACH SERVICES  
7 ON LOCATION;

8 (II) INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY INTERVENTION TEAMS; AND

9 (III) RESIDENTIAL CRISIS SERVICES;

10 (4) COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROMOTION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS;  
11 AND

12 (5) AN EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES OF SERVICES THROUGH AN ANNUAL  
13 SURVEY BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF CONSUMERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO  
14 HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES FROM THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

15 (B) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SERVICES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AS  
16 DETERMINED BY THE CORE SERVICE AGENCY SERVING EACH JURISDICTION OR  
17 REGION.

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

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

23 10-1404.

24 ~~(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET SUFFICIENT~~  
25 ~~FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM AS FEDERAL FUNDS AND~~  
26 ~~OTHER SOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.~~

27 ~~(B) THE SECRETARY MAY RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE UNITED~~  
28 ~~STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY FOR THE CRISIS~~  
29 ~~RESPONSE SYSTEM.~~

30 (A) THE STATE MAY NOT EXPEND MORE THAN \$250,000 IN STATE GENERAL  
31 FUNDS IN EACH FISCAL YEAR TO IMPLEMENT THE MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH  
32 CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

33 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL IMPLEMENT THE CRISIS RESPONSE  
34 SYSTEM, IN COLLABORATION WITH CORE SERVICE AGENCIES, ON A REGIONAL OR

1 JURISDICTIONAL BASIS AS FEDERAL FUNDING OR FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES  
2 BECOMES AVAILABLE.

3 10-1405.

4 THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM PROVIDERS SHALL CONTRACT WITH SERVICE  
5 PROVIDERS WHO EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS WHO USE OR HAVE USED MENTAL HEALTH  
6 SERVICES.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act is  
8 contingent on the receipt of federal funding or funding from any other private or  
9 public source to implement the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System  
10 established under Section 1 of this Act. The Mental Hygiene Administration, within  
11 15 days after the receipt of federal funding or other sources of funding for the  
12 Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System, shall give written notice to the  
13 Department of Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, of the  
14 receipt of funding. Section 1 of this Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of the  
15 written notice from the Administration.

16 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2  
17 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.