
By: **Senator Ruben**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Reform of the Public Mental Health System in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Reform of the Public Mental
4 Health System in Maryland; providing for the composition of the Task Force;
5 requiring the Governor to appoint the chairman of the Task Force; requiring the
6 Mental Hygiene Administration of the Department of Health and Mental
7 Hygiene to provide the staffing for the Task Force; prohibiting members serving
8 on the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling members to
9 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
10 recommendations regarding the feasibility of reforming the State public mental
11 health system in certain areas; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain
12 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
13 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
14 Force on the Reform of the Public Mental Health System in Maryland.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) There is a Task Force on the Reform of the Public Mental Health System in
18 Maryland.

19 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

20 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
21 of the Senate;

22 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
23 the House;

24 (3) the Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services of the Department of
25 Health and Mental Hygiene;

26 (4) the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration of the
27 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

28 (5) a representative from the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental
29 Hygiene appointed by the Governor;

1 (6) two representatives from mental health associations appointed by
2 the Governor;

3 (7) at least two representatives from local governments or core service
4 agencies who have experience working in the area of mental health appointed by the
5 Governor; and

6 (8) at least two representatives who have experience as outpatient
7 mental health clinic administrators appointed by the Governor.

8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

9 (d) The Mental Hygiene Administration of the Department of Health and
10 Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task Force.

11 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
12 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
13 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

14 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding the
15 feasibility of reforming the State mental health system, including the system's:

16 (1) service delivery structure, efficiency, methods of service delivery, and
17 clinic management; and

18 (2) financial structure, payment practices, funding, funding delivery
19 system, and billing system.

20 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
21 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
22 Assembly on or before December 1, 2004.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
24 effect October 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end
25 of September 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
26 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.