
By: **Senator Ruben**
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Assigned to: Finance

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CHAPTER _____

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;~~

1 ~~(3)~~ (1) the Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services of the
2 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

3 ~~(4)~~ (2) the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration of the
4 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

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

7 ~~(6)~~ two representatives from mental health associations appointed by
8 the Governor;

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

12 ~~(8)~~ at least two representatives who have experience as outpatient
13 mental health clinic administrators appointed by the Governor

14 (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

15 (i) one representative from the Maryland Advisory Council on
16 Mental Hygiene;

17 (ii) one representative from a mental health association;

18 (iii) one representative from a core service agency;

19 (iv) one representative from a local correctional agency;

20 (v) one representative from a local law enforcement agency;

21 (vi) one representative from a freestanding private psychiatric
22 hospital in Maryland;

23 (vii) one representative from an acute care hospital in Maryland;

24 (viii) one representative with experience as an outpatient mental
25 health clinic administrator;

26 (ix) two consumers of public mental health services; and

27 (x) one family member of a consumer of public mental health
28 services.

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

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

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

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

6 (1) service delivery structure, efficiency, methods of service delivery, and
7 clinic management; ~~and~~

8 (2) financial structure, payment practices, funding, funding delivery
9 system, and billing system;

10 (3) target population; and

11 (4) goals and evaluation measures for patient outcomes.

12 (g) The Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and
13 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
14 Article, the General Assembly ~~on or~~ before December 1, 2004.

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