

HOUSE BILL 25

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C3

2003 Regular Session  
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CF 3r1337

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By: ~~Delegate Hammen~~ Delegates Hammen, Benson, Boutin, Bromwell,  
Costa, Donoghue, Elliott, Goldwater, Haynes, Hubbard, Hurson,  
Mandel, McDonough, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks,  
Pendergrass, Rosenberg, Rudolph, Smigiel, V. Turner, and Weldon

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2003  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 7, 2003

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Services**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Access to Mental Health Services;  
4 specifying the duties of the Task Force; specifying the members of the Task  
5 Force; requiring the members of the Task Force to select a chairman of the Task  
6 Force; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and  
7 the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this  
8 Act; and generally relating to access to mental health services.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) There is a Task Force on Access to Mental Health Services.

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

13 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
14 of the Senate;

15 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
16 the House;

17 (3) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's  
18 designee;

1 (4) The Maryland Insurance Commissioner or the Commissioner's  
2 designee;

3 (5) The Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission or  
4 the Executive Director's designee;

5 (6) The Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families or the  
6 Special Secretary's designee;

7 ~~(5)~~ (7) The following members appointed by the Maryland Insurance  
8 Commissioner:

9 (i) ~~One representative of the commercial health insurance~~  
10 ~~industry;~~

11 (ii) ~~One representative of a commercial health maintenance~~  
12 ~~organization; and~~

13 (i) Three representatives of carriers offering health care coverage  
14 in the commercial market;

15 (ii) A representative of the business community; and

16 (iii) One representative of the managed behavioral health care  
17 industry; and

18 ~~(6)~~ (8) The following members appointed by the Secretary of Health  
19 and Mental Hygiene:

20 (i) One representative of the Maryland Hospital Association;

21 (ii) One representative of the Mental Health Association of  
22 Maryland;

23 (iii) One representative of the Community Behavioral Health  
24 Association of Maryland;

25 (iv) One representative of Maryland's pediatric mental health  
26 community;

27 (v) One psychiatrist licensed in Maryland, nominated by the  
28 Maryland Psychiatric Society;

29 (vi) One physician licensed in Maryland, nominated by MedChi;

30 (vii) One psychologist licensed in Maryland; and

31 ~~(vi)~~ (viii) One social worker licensed in Maryland;

32 (ix) One representative of the Coalition on Aging and Mental  
33 Health;

- 1                   (x)     One representative of Core Service Agencies;  
 2                   (xi)     One representative of the Developmental Disabilities Coalition  
 3 of Maryland;  
 4                   (xii)    One consumer of mental health services;  
 5                   (xiii)   One representative of NAMI MD;  
 6                   (xiv)    One representative of the Maryland Association of Resources for  
 7 Families and Youth;  
 8                   (xv)     One representative of the Pro Bono Counseling Project; and  
 9                   (xvi)    One representative of the early childhood mental health  
 10 community.

11       (c)       The members of the Task Force shall select a chairman from the  
 12 membership of the Task Force.

13       (d)       The Maryland Insurance Administration and the Department of Health  
 14 and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task Force.

15       (e)       A member of the Task Force:

16               (1)       May not receive compensation; but

17               (2)       Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
 18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19       (f)       The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

20               (1)       ~~Study and make recommendations regarding compliance by~~  
 21 ~~commercial health insurers and health maintenance organizations with the~~ Whether  
 22 any changes should be made to the mental health parity requirements under  
 23 § 15-802 of the Insurance Article and § 19-703.1 of the Health - General Article; ~~and~~

24               (2)       (i)       ~~Examine the systemic barriers experienced by~~  
 25 ~~commercially insured individuals when attempting to access community treatment;~~  
 26 ~~and~~

27               (ii)       ~~Make recommendations to ensure that commercially insured~~  
 28 ~~individuals have access to medically necessary mental health treatment.~~

29               (2)       The differences in the coverage of mental health services among the  
 30 public mental health system, commercial insurers, and commercial health  
 31 maintenance organizations;

32               (3)       The structure and effectiveness of the mental health care delivery  
 33 system in the State;

1           (4)     The wages paid to mental health care workers and the impact of  
2 those wages on quality of care; and

3           (5)     The impact of any recommended changes on the cost of health care  
4 coverage.

5       (g)     The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
6 Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the  
7 General Assembly, on or before December 31, ~~2003~~ 2004.

8       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
9 effect July 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and,  
10 at the end of December 31, ~~2003~~ 2004, with no further action required by the General  
11 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.