
By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Barkley, Burns, C. Davis, Harrison, Jones,
McDonough, Murray, Paige, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2003

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Health and**
3 **Substance Abuse Disorders**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Needs of Persons with
5 Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders; providing for the
6 composition of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to elect a chairman and
7 vice-chairman of the Task Force from among the Task Force's members;
8 requiring the Mental Hygiene Administration to provide staffing for the Task
9 Force; prohibiting members from receiving compensation but entitling members
10 to reimbursement of expenses under a certain law; requiring the Task Force to
11 study and make recommendations regarding certain ways of delivering certain
12 services, securing funding, and providing certain training to a certain
13 population; requiring the Task Force to submit certain reports to the Governor
14 and certain committees on or before certain dates; requiring the Mental Hygiene
15 Administration to conduct a certain study and submit a certain report to certain
16 committees on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
17 and generally relating to a Task Force on the Needs of Persons with
18 Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders.

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That:

21 (a) There is a Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental
22 Health and Substance Abuse Disorders.

23 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members appointed by the
24 Governor:

- 25 (1) one representative of the Mental Health Administration;
- 26 (2) one representative of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration;
- 27 (3) one representative of the Department of Human Resources;
- 28 (4) one social worker from the Department of Social Services;

- 1 (5) one representative of the Department of Rehabilitative Services;
- 2 (6) one representative of the AIDS Administration;
- 3 (7) one representative of the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- 4 (8) one representative of the Faith-Based Community Providers;
- 5 (9) one representative of the Department of Housing and Community
6 Development;
- 7 (10) one representative of the Department of Public Safety and
8 Correctional Services;
- 9 (11) one State court judge;
- 10 (12) one representative of the State's Attorney's Office;
- 11 (13) one representative from the Public Defender's Office;
- 12 (14) one representative who is a consumer of co-occurring disorder
13 services or who has a family member who uses such services;
- 14 (15) one representative of the Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup of the
15 National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. - Maryland and Mental
16 Health Association of Maryland;
- 17 (16) one representative from the Maryland Psychiatric Society;
- 18 (17) one representative from the Maryland Nurses Association; and
- 19 (18) two consumers.
- 20 (c) The members of the Task Force shall elect the chairman and
21 vice-chairman from among the Task Force's members.
- 22 (d) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 23 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 24 (1) may not receive compensation; but
- 25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
26 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 27 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 28 (1) identify and recommend creative ways to provide and deliver
29 comprehensive, integrated, cost-effective services to the population with co-occurring
30 mental health and substance abuse disorders;

1 (2) identify and recommend various methods of funding services through
2 private and public sources;

3 (3) make recommendations regarding both short-term and long-term
4 residential services for people with co-occurring disorders, including
5 recommendations on the number of units needed and a timeline for providing
6 residential services;

7 (4) make recommendations regarding how the Mental Hygiene
8 Administration and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration may implement
9 cross-training for mental health and addiction counselors; and

10 (5) make recommendations regarding necessary legislation to implement
11 the Task Force's recommendations.

12 (g) (1) The Task Force shall issue an interim report of its findings and
13 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
14 Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the
15 House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 1, 2004.

16 (2) The Task Force shall issue a final report on its findings and
17 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
18 Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the
19 House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 1, 2005.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

21 (a) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall conduct or commission a study
22 on the relationship between substance abuse and mental illness among counties in
23 Maryland.

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

27 (c) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall report to the Governor, the
28 Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, the Senate Education, Health, and
29 Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Health and Government
30 Operations Committee on or before January 1, 2004, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
31 the State Government Article, on the findings and recommendations of the study.

32 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 3 months and, at
34 the end of December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General
35 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.