

SENATE BILL 252

Unofficial Copy  
C3

2003 Regular Session  
3r1337  
CF 3r0573

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By: **Senators Teitelbaum, Astle, Della, Kelley, Klausmeier, and Ruben**  
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2003  
Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 12, 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 invite the participation of and solicit  
7 commentary from certain interested parties; requiring the Task Force to submit  
8 a certain ~~report~~ reports to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain  
9 ~~date~~ dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to  
10 access to mental health services.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That:

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

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

15 (1) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
16 of the Senate;

17 (2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
18 the House;

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

21 (4) The Maryland Insurance Commissioner or the Commissioner's  
22 designee; and

1           (5)     Nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:

2                   (i)     Three representatives of the health care services industry who  
3 are licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice a health occupation under  
4 the Health Occupations Article;

5                   (ii)    Three representatives of insurance carriers that offer health  
6 care coverage in the commercial market; and

7                   (iii)   Three consumer members who receive, or have a family  
8 member who receives, mental health care services.

9           (5)     The following members appointed by the Maryland Insurance  
10 Commissioner:

11                   (i)     One representative of the commercial health insurance  
12 industry;

13                   (ii)    One representative of a commercial health maintenance  
14 organization; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26                   (v)     One psychiatrist licensed in Maryland; and

27                   (vi)   One social worker licensed in Maryland.

28           (c)     The Task Force shall invite the participation of and solicit commentary  
29 from all interested parties who are not members of the Task Force.

30           (↔)    (d)     The members of the Task Force shall select a chairman from the  
31 membership of the Task Force.

32           (↔)    (e)     The Maryland Insurance Administration and the Department of  
33 Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task Force.

1       (⇌)     (f)     A member of the Task Force:  
 2               (1)     May not receive compensation; but  
 3               (2)     Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
 4 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

5       (⇌)     (g)     The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

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

10              (2)     (⇌)     ~~Examine the~~ The systemic barriers experienced by  
 11 commercially-insured individuals when attempting to access community treatment;  
 12 and

13                       (⇌)     ~~Make recommendations~~

14               (3)     How to ensure that commercially-insured individuals have access to  
 15 medically-necessary mental health treatment;

16               (4)     The difference in mental health services coverage provided by the  
 17 public mental health system, commercial health insurers, and commercial health  
 18 maintenance organizations;

19               (5)     The structure and effectiveness of the public and private mental  
 20 health care delivery systems in the State; and

21               (6)     The impact on the cost of health care coverage in the State of any  
 22 recommended changes to the coverage or delivery of mental health care services.

23       (⇌)     (h)     ~~The Task Force shall report~~ On or before December 31, 2003, the  
 24 Task Force shall issue a preliminary report of its findings, and on or before December  
 25 31, 2004, shall issue a final report of its findings and recommendations to the  
 26 Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the  
 27 General Assembly, on or before December 31, 2003.

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

