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By: **Delegates Hixson, Hurson, Franchot, Healey, and Murray**  
Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2004  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Public Mental Health System -**  
3 **Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to  
5 conduct or commission a certain study; providing for the goals of the study;  
6 specifying the items to be developed, determined, and analyzed by the study;  
7 requiring the Department to report on certain findings and recommendations of  
8 the study on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study of the  
9 Maryland public mental health system by the Department of Health and Mental  
10 Hygiene.

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

13 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct or  
14 commission a study to develop a "next generation managed care" system design for  
15 the Maryland public mental health system.

16 (b) The goals of the study are to:

17 (1) preserve the strengths of the current public mental health system;

18 (2) address the current system's budget shortfalls;

19 (3) create a system that delivers services that are of high quality,  
20 efficient, and effective; and

21 (4) design a system that can be implemented in a timely manner.

22 (c) The study shall:

23 (1) analyze the population to determine which individuals shall receive  
24 public mental health services;

25 (2) determine the types of mental health services to be offered and the  
26 quality and cost of those services;

- 1           (3)     involve key public mental health system stakeholders;
- 2           (4)     develop a funding and reimbursement system that best matches the  
3 design and goals of the system;
- 4           (5)     determine how to build a strong and highly competent service  
5 provider network;
- 6           (6)     develop a system that matches the appropriate level of care with the  
7 needs of the client; and
- 8           (7)     increase the accountability of service providers using measurable  
9 outcomes.

10       (d)     The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report to the  
11 Governor, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and  
12 the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before September 30,  
13 2005, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the findings  
14 and recommendations of this study.

15       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2004.