

HOUSE BILL 1459
EMERGENCY BILL

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2004 Regular Session
4r3001

By: **Delegates Boschert, Benson, Burns, V. Clagett, Conroy, Costa, C. Davis, Dwyer, Frush, Gilleland, Healey, Hennessy, Howard, Kelley, Leopold, Love, McConkey, McMillan, Menes, Moe, Nathan-Pulliam, Owings, Patterson, Ramirez, Ross, and Sophocleus**

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 2004

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Hygiene Administration - Crownsville Hospital Center - Study**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Mental Hygiene Administration from closing,
4 downsizing, consolidating, or selling the Crownsville Hospital Center on or
5 before a certain date unless certain requirements are met; requiring the
6 Administration to conduct or commission a certain study regarding the
7 Crownsville Hospital Center; requiring the study to make a determination about
8 certain issues; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to
9 a study regarding the Crownsville Hospital Center by the Mental Hygiene
10 Administration.

11 **Preamble**

12 WHEREAS, There is a serious need for State psychiatric hospitals in Maryland
13 demonstrated by the large numbers of mentally ill individuals waiting in emergency
14 rooms and detention centers for placement in psychiatric hospitals; and

15 WHEREAS, Numerous studies have shown a correlation between the
16 downsizing or closing of state psychiatric hospitals and an increased number of
17 mentally ill individuals in state prisons; now, therefore,

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

20 (a) The Mental Hygiene Administration may not close, downsize, consolidate,
21 or sell the Crownsville Hospital Center on or before June 1, 2006, unless the
22 requirements of subsection (b) of this section are met.

23 (b) (1) The Mental Hygiene Administration shall conduct or commission a
24 study to determine whether closing the Crownsville Hospital Center is an appropriate
25 option for the continued delivery of the mental health services to the individuals in
26 the geographic region.

1 (2) The study shall determine:

2 (i) the availability of and access to mental health services for
3 individuals in the geographic region currently served by the Crownsville Hospital
4 Center;

5 (ii) the future use of the Crownsville Hospital Center grounds; and

6 (iii) the potential impact on the nonprofit organizations that use the
7 Crownsville Hospital Center facilities.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
9 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
10 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
11 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
12 the date it is enacted.