

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1499

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “Delegate Hubbard” and substitute “Delegates Hubbard, Benson, Boutin, Bromwell, Costa, Donoghue, Elliott, Frank, Goldwater, Hammen, Hurson, Kullen, Mandel, McDonough, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pendergrass, Rudolph, V. Turner, and Weldon”; in line 2, strike “Atypical Antipsychotic Medications” and substitute “Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee - Mental Health Medications”; strike in their entirety lines 3 through 11, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations requiring the mental health subcommittee of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee in the Department to conduct certain reviews, communicate certain information, and make certain recommendations to the Committee relating to mental health medications; requiring the Committee to include certain representatives of the mental health advocacy community on the mental health subcommittee; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to mental health medications and the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.”;

and strike in their entirety lines 12 through 26, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 28, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”; and after line 28, insert:

“(a) (1) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall adopt regulations that require the mental health subcommittee of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee in the Department to:

(Over)

(i) review the clinical appropriateness of mental health drugs to be reviewed by the Committee and advise the Committee on selection of mental health drugs for the Maryland Pharmacy Preferred Drug List;

(ii) recommend to the Committee cost-containment initiatives for the Department to implement relating to mental health drugs;

(iii) communicate any new or amended Department policies to the Committee before releasing this information to the public, including medical professionals who discharge patients from hospitals;

(iv) advise the Committee on the communication of any changes to the preferred drug list to medical professionals practicing in inpatient and outpatient settings;

(v) recommend to the Committee optimal dosing amounts for mental health medications;

(vi) recommend to the Committee methods to ensure that mental health patients have access to necessary medications after being discharged from a hospital; and

(vii) review complaints received by the Department pertaining to problems in accessing mental health drugs, including drugs not on the preferred drug list, and accessing brand-name drugs versus generic drugs.

(2) The Committee shall include representatives of the mental health advocacy community on the mental health subcommittee.

(b) On or before December 31, 2005, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on steps taken by the Department to ensure that mental health patients have access to necessary medications, including medications not on the Department's preferred drug list."

On pages 2 through 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 1 on page 2 through line 22 on page 5, inclusive.