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By: **Senators Kelley, Astle, Britt, Colburn, Conway, Exum, Forehand,  
Gladden, Grosfeld, Hollinger, Hughes, Jones, Klausmeier, Kramer,  
Middleton, Ruben, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services - Establishment,**  
3 **Membership, and Duties**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health  
5 Services; providing for the membership, tenure, and chairs of the Committee;  
6 requiring the Department of Legislative Services to provide staff assistance to  
7 the Committee; requiring the Committee to monitor access to certain mental  
8 health services and certain medically necessary services; requiring the  
9 Committee to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General  
10 Assembly; and generally relating to the Joint Committee on Access to Mental  
11 Health Services.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - State Government  
14 Section 2-10A-05  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2004 Replacement Volume)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - State Government**

20 2-10A-05.

21 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
22 ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

23 (B) THERE IS A JOINT COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

24 (C) (1) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF EIGHT MEMBERS.

25 (2) OF THE EIGHT MEMBERS:

1 (I) FOUR SHALL BE SENATORS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT;  
2 AND

3 (II) FOUR SHALL BE DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER.

4 (3) OF THE FOUR SENATORS:

5 (I) TWO SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE;

6 (II) ONE SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BUDGET AND TAXATION  
7 COMMITTEE; AND

8 (III) ONE SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND  
9 ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

10 (4) OF THE FOUR DELEGATES:

11 (I) TWO SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT  
12 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE;

13 (II) ONE SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS  
14 COMMITTEE; AND

15 (III) ONE SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC MATTERS  
16 COMMITTEE.

17 (D) THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE  
18 PRESIDING OFFICER WHO APPOINTED THEM.

19 (E) (1) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, THE  
20 PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT A SENATOR TO SERVE AS THE SENATE CHAIR OF THE  
21 COMMITTEE, AND THE SPEAKER SHALL APPOINT A DELEGATE TO SERVE AS THE  
22 HOUSE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE.

23 (2) THE SENATE CHAIR AND THE HOUSE CHAIR SHALL ALTERNATE  
24 ANNUALLY AS PRESIDING CHAIRS AND COCHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE.

25 (F) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF  
26 ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE.

27 (G) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MONITOR ACCESS TO:

28 (1) PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS;  
29 AND

30 (2) MEDICALLY NECESSARY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR  
31 INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY PRIVATE INSURANCE.

32 (H) THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR  
33 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THIS TITLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
34 REGARDING:

1 (1) SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;

2 AND

3 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS TO MITIGATE THESE BARRIERS.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

5 October 1, 2005.