
By: **Delegate Benson**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services - Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of adding certain members to the Joint Committee on Access to
4 Mental Health Services; and generally relating to the Joint Committee on
5 Access to Mental Health Services.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - State Government
8 Section 2-10A-05
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - State Government**

14 2-10A-05.

15 (a) In this section, "Committee" means the Joint Committee on Access to
16 Mental Health Services.

17 (b) There is a Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services.

18 (c) (1) The Committee consists of [eight] TEN members.

19 (2) Of the [eight] TEN members:

20 (i) [four] FIVE shall be Senators, appointed by the President; and

21 (ii) [four] FIVE shall be Delegates, appointed by the Speaker.

22 (3) Of the [four] FIVE Senators:

23 (i) two shall be members of the Finance Committee;

1 (ii) one shall be a member of the Budget and Taxation Committee;

2 [and]

3 (iii) one shall be a member of the Education, Health, and
4 Environmental Affairs Committee; AND

5 (IV) ONE SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS
6 COMMITTEE.

7 (4) Of the [four] FIVE Delegates:

8 (i) two shall be members of the Health and Government
9 Operations Committee;

10 (ii) one shall be a member of the Appropriations Committee; [and]

11 (iii) one shall be a member of the Economic Matters Committee;
12 AND

13 (IV) ONE SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

14 (d) The members of the Committee serve at the pleasure of the presiding
15 officer who appointed them.

16 (e) (1) From among the membership of the Committee, the President shall
17 appoint a Senator to serve as the Senate Chair of the Committee, and the Speaker
18 shall appoint a Delegate to serve as the House Chair of the Committee.

19 (2) The Senate Chair and the House Chair shall alternate annually as
20 presiding chairs and cochairs of the Committee.

21 (f) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff assistance to
22 the Committee.

23 (g) The Committee shall monitor access to:

24 (1) public mental health services for eligible individuals; and

25 (2) medically necessary mental health services for individuals covered by
26 private insurance.

27 (h) The Committee shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, in
28 accordance with § 2-1246 of this title, to the General Assembly, regarding:

29 (1) systemic barriers to access to mental health services; and

30 (2) recommendations to mitigate these barriers.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 June 1, 2006.