
By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Therapeutic Behavioral**
3 **Services - Rate Adequacy Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 conduct a certain study; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to
6 the Governor and certain standing committees of the General Assembly in a
7 certain manner by a certain date; and generally relating to the rates paid to
8 therapeutic behavioral services providers.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a study of
12 the adequacy of rates paid to therapeutic behavioral services providers.

13 (b) The study shall:

14 (1) assess the impact of the current rates on:

15 (i) participation of existing and potential therapeutic behavioral
16 services providers in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

17 (ii) the ability of therapeutic behavioral services providers to
18 recruit and retain staff;

19 (iii) the ability of MAPS-MD to promptly refer a child for receipt of
20 therapeutic behavioral services; and

21 (iv) the ability of therapeutic behavioral services providers to
22 deliver the requisite number of therapeutic behavioral services hours;

23 (2) take into account the impact of current rates on outcomes of care for
24 children in need of therapeutic behavioral services; and

25 (3) be conducted jointly by staff from the Maryland Medical Assistance
26 Program and the Mental Hygiene Administration.

1 (c) In conducting the study, the Department shall:

2 (1) provide public notice of the study in the Maryland Register; and

3 (2) solicit input from therapeutic behavioral services providers, mental
4 health professionals, advocates, and families whose children have received or been
5 referred for therapeutic behavioral services.

6 (d) On or before January 1, 2007, the Department shall submit a report to the
7 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the
8 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House
9 Appropriations Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations
10 Committee on the findings and recommendations of the study.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 2006.