
By: **Delegate Hammen**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Health Resources Commission Fund - Mental Health and**
3 **Substance Abuse Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Community Health Resources
5 Commission, in developing certain regulations, to give priority to certain
6 community health resources that provide a clinical home for certain individuals
7 who access hospital emergency departments for certain services; and generally
8 relating to the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Health - General
11 Section 19-2201
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Health - General**

17 19-2201.

18 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Community Health Resources
19 Commission Fund.

20 (b) There is a Community Health Resources Commission Fund.

21 (c) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302
22 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

23 (2) The Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller
24 shall account for the Fund.

25 (d) The Fund consists of:

1 (1) Money collected from a nonprofit health service plan in accordance
2 with § 14-106.1 of the Insurance Article;

3 (2) Interest earned on investments;

4 (3) Money donated to the Fund;

5 (4) Money awarded to the Fund through grants; and

6 (5) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of
7 the Fund.

8 (e) (1) The Fund may be used only to:

9 (i) Cover the administrative costs of the Commission;

10 (ii) Cover the actual documented direct costs of fulfilling the
11 statutory and regulatory duties of the Commission in accordance with the provisions
12 of this subtitle;

13 (iii) Provide operating grants to qualifying community health
14 resources; and

15 (iv) Provide funding for the development, support, and monitoring
16 of a unified data information system among primary and specialty care providers,
17 hospitals, and other providers of services to community health resource members.

18 (2) The funding for a unified data information system under paragraph
19 (1)(iv) of this subsection shall be limited to:

20 (i) \$500,000 in fiscal year 2006; and

21 (ii) \$1,700,000 in fiscal year 2007 and annually thereafter.

22 (f) The Commission shall adopt regulations that:

23 (1) Establish the criteria for a community health resource to qualify for a
24 grant;

25 (2) Establish the procedures for disbursing grants to qualifying
26 community health resources;

27 (3) Develop a formula for disbursing grants to qualifying community
28 health resources; and

29 (4) Establish criteria and mechanisms for funding a unified data
30 information system.

31 (g) In developing regulations under subsection (f)(1) of this section, the
32 Commission shall:

- 1 (1) Consider geographic balance; and
- 2 (2) Give priority to community health resources that:
- 3 (i) In addition to normal business hours, have evening and
4 weekend hours of operation;
- 5 (ii) Have partnered with a hospital to establish a reverse referral
6 program at the hospital;
- 7 (iii) Reduce the use of the hospital emergency department for
8 nonemergency services;
- 9 (iv) Assist patients in establishing a medical home with a
10 community health resource;
- 11 (v) Coordinate and integrate the delivery of primary and specialty
12 care services;
- 13 (vi) Promote the integration of mental and somatic health with
14 federally qualified health centers or other somatic care providers;
- 15 (vii) Fund medication management or therapy services for
16 uninsured individuals up to 200% of the federal poverty level who meet medical
17 necessity criteria but who are ineligible for the public mental health system;
- 18 (viii) Provide a clinical home for individuals who access hospital
19 emergency departments for mental health services, SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, OR
20 BOTH; and
- 21 (ix) Support the implementation of evidence-based clinical
22 practices.
- 23 (h) Grants awarded to a community health resource under this section may be
24 used:
- 25 (1) To provide operational assistance to a community health resource;
26 and
- 27 (2) For any other purpose the Commission determines is appropriate to
28 assist a community health resource.
- 29 (i) (1) The Treasurer shall invest the money in the Fund in the same
30 manner as other State money may be invested.
- 31 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be retained to the credit of
32 the Fund.
- 33 (j) The Fund shall be subject to an audit by the Office of Legislative Audits as
34 provided for in § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.

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