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By: **Senator Middleton**  
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2006  
Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Benefits and Services for Individuals Who Are Incarcerated or**  
3 **Institutionalized - Work Group Report**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the date by which a certain work group convened by  
5 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Human  
6 Resources, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is  
7 required to issue a certain report including certain findings and  
8 recommendations; and generally relating to a work group report concerning  
9 benefits for individuals who are incarcerated or institutionalized.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Chapter 82 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005  
12 Section 3

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

15 **Chapter 82 of the Acts of 2005**

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

17 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of  
18 Human Resources, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
19 shall convene a work group consisting of interested stakeholders to make  
20 recommendations on actions to be taken to break the cycle of rearrest and  
21 reincarceration for individuals with mental illnesses who become involved with the  
22 criminal justice system, including the following:

23 (1) recommended agency responsibility for and actions to be taken to  
24 ensure that suspension and reinstatement of benefits occur in a seamless fashion;

25 (2) review and clarification of current and recommended agency  
26 responsibility for case management services for individuals released from  
27 incarceration;

1 (3) measures to ensure that timely assistance is provided to inmates  
2 with psychiatric disabilities who are not on eligibility rolls for federal benefits but  
3 who are likely to be eligible for those benefits on release;

4 (4) recommendations regarding the creation of a State bridge program  
5 for released inmates with mental illnesses whose applications for federal benefits are  
6 pending;

7 (5) review and clarification of current and recommended agency  
8 responsibility for providing access to medically necessary mental health services for  
9 inmates both while incarcerated and on release;

10 (6) actions to be taken to ensure that an individual who is released from  
11 incarceration receives in a timely manner a photo identification card that does not  
12 disclose the individual's incarceration; and

13 (7) any other strategies identified and supported by the work group to  
14 address the work group's mission.

15 (b) (1) The work group shall ISSUE A FINAL report OF its findings and  
16 recommendations on or before [December 1, 2005] OCTOBER 1, 2006, in accordance  
17 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the House Health and Government  
18 Operations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

19 (2) THE FINAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

20 (I) FOR BOTH JAILS AND PRISONS:

21 1. AN INDICATION OF THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN  
22 EACH FACILITY WHO HAVE MENTAL ILLNESSES AND ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING  
23 SERVICES; AND

24 2. THE ADEQUACY OF THE CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH AND  
25 RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES APPROPRIATE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL'S NEEDS;

26 (II) A DETERMINATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH CURRENT  
27 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ARE RECEIVING ADEQUATE  
28 RESOURCES TO MEET THE TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICE NEEDS OF THE  
29 INMATE POPULATION WITH MENTAL ILLNESS;

30 (III) A SUMMARY OF EFFECTIVE PILOT PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN  
31 IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE,  
32 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
33 AND CORRECTION SERVICES, THE SCOPE OF COVERAGE OF THE PILOT PROGRAMS,  
34 AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
35 IDENTIFIED PILOT PROGRAMS;

36 (IV) THE STATUS OF AND THE NEED FOR TRANSITION AND  
37 DIVERSION PROGRAMS;

1 (V) RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE PROPER SCOPE,  
2 CONFIGURATION, AND AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORTIVE  
3 SERVICES AND TRAINING;

4 (VI) COST ESTIMATES TO IMPLEMENT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS  
5 AND THE BENEFITS OF THE COSTS; AND

6 (VII) IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFIT RESTORATION PROGRAMS OR  
7 RECOMMENDATIONS TO STREAMLINE ACCESS TO SERVICES UPON AN INMATE'S  
8 RELEASE FROM A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY THAT, IF IMPLEMENTED IN STATE  
9 PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS, WOULD ENABLE INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY THESE  
10 HOSPITALS TO ACCESS BENEFITS AND SERVICES MORE QUICKLY ON AN  
11 INDIVIDUAL'S DISCHARGE INTO THE COMMUNITY.

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