

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 376 (Chairman, Anne Arundel County Senators)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Anne Arundel County - Mental Health Advisory Committee**

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This bill allows Anne Arundel County to designate the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc., the county's core service agency, as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the county.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies existing practice.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The governing body of each county must establish a mental health advisory committee to serve as an advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages. The governing bodies of two counties may establish an intercounty mental health advisory committee if the population of one of the counties is too small to warrant establishing a community mental health program for that county and the State Director of Mental Hygiene consents. The governing body of a county may establish a joint mental health and addictions advisory committee.

Each county advisory committee and intercounty advisory committee must have at least six meetings annually. Except in Montgomery County, staff services for each county

advisory committee or intercounty advisory committee must be provided by the health officer for the appropriate county.

Each advisory committee must (1) monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of publicly-funded mental health services within the county(s); (2) determine the needs of the county(s) mental health system; (3) participate in the development of the local mental health plan and local mental health budget; (4) prepare and disseminate an annual report; (5) review and comment on the core service agency or county(s) health plan and preliminary budget, prior to submitting the budget to the State; and (6) review and comment on the annual fiscal report.

Chapter 376 of 2005 allowed Baltimore City to designate Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc., the city's core service agency, as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the city. Chapter 62 of 2004 allowed Howard County to designate a quasi-public authority (the Howard County Mental Health Authority) as the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the county.

**Background:** Anne Arundel County advises that the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc. currently is performing the functions of the statutorily required mental health advisory committee.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 472 (Delegate Love) (Chairman Anne Arundel County Delegation) – Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2006  
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