

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1243 (Anne Arundel County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations

Finance

Anne Arundel County - Mental Health Advisory Committee

This bill allows the governing body of 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.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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 has to meet at least six times each year. Except in Montgomery County, staff services for each advisory committee have to be provided by the health officer for the appropriate county.

In addition, each advisory committee has to (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: The Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc. is currently performing the functions of the statutorily required mental health advisory committee.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: This bill was introduced as SB 376 and HB 472 in 2006. SB 376 was heard in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. HB 472 passed the House and was assigned to Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. No further action was taken on either bill.

Cross File: SB 890 (Anne Arundel County Senators) – Finance.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2007
ncs/hlb

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