

# SENATE BILL 703

J1, P1

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By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Land Use at the Rosewood Center**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Land Use at the Rosewood Center;  
4 establishing the membership of the Commission; specifying the co-chairs of the  
5 Commission; providing for the staffing of the Commission; prohibiting members  
6 from receiving compensation or a certain expense reimbursement for service on  
7 the Commission; requiring the Commission to review, discuss, and analyze  
8 options for the use of the land and buildings at Rosewood Center once it closes;  
9 requiring the Commission to make certain reports to the Governor and the  
10 General Assembly by certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act;  
11 prohibiting the transfer or disposition of buildings or land associated with the  
12 Rosewood Center until after a certain report is submitted to the Governor and  
13 the General Assembly; and generally relating to the establishment of the  
14 Commission on Land Use at the Rosewood Center.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, The Rosewood Center was established in 1888 as the “Asylum and  
17 Training Center for the Feeble Minded” and has operated as a State mental health  
18 facility for over 120 years in the picturesque Owings Mills area of Baltimore County;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, At its inception the Rosewood Center encompassed a 683-acre  
21 campus and at its peak consisted of 43 buildings totaling 730,000 square feet, and still  
22 today comprises 300 acres and 26 buildings in active use totaling 480,000 square feet;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Many of the buildings currently in use at the Rosewood Center date  
to the 1950s and 1960s, but at least one dates back to 1895; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           WHEREAS, On January 15, 2008, Governor O'Malley issued an Executive  
2 Order to close Rosewood Center and relocate its residents over an 18-month period,  
3 with most residents transitioning to community placements that provide the  
4 appropriate services and setting; and

5           WHEREAS, Although at one time Rosewood was home to nearly 3,000  
6 individuals, it is currently licensed to serve a total of 225 residents and on January 15,  
7 2008, had 156 individuals in residence; and

8           WHEREAS, Over the years a substantial portion of the original acreage of the  
9 Rosewood Center property has been transferred through the State surplus property  
10 disposition process for use as a veterans' cemetery, a nature center, and for  
11 school-related purposes; and

12           WHEREAS, The Governor has expressed a strong commitment to work with  
13 Baltimore County officials and community residents to plan for the future use of the  
14 remaining Rosewood Center property; and

15           WHEREAS, Baltimore County officials and residents in the community are  
16 keenly interested in the future uses of the Rosewood Center property and strongly  
17 desire to partner with State officials to chart potential appropriate public uses for the  
18 property, including possible use as open space and parkland; now, therefore,

19           SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
20 MARYLAND, That:

21           (a)     There is a Commission on Land Use at the Rosewood Center.

22           (b)     The Commission shall consist of the following 21 members:

23                   (1)     Two members of the General Assembly, including:

24                           (i)     The Senator who represents the legislative district in which  
25 the Rosewood Center is located; and

26                           (ii)    One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
27 Governor, who represents the legislative district in which the Rosewood Center is  
28 located;

29                   (2)     The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
30 designee;

31                   (3)     The Director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration, or  
32 the Director's designee;

33                   (4)     The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;

34                   (5)     The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

1           (6)    The following members appointed by the Governor:

2                   (i)    Five individuals who reside in the community surrounding  
3 the Rosewood Center;

4                   (ii)   Two representatives of the developmental disabilities  
5 community;

6                   (iii)   One individual with expertise in issues relating to  
7 transportation;

8                   (iv)   One individual with expertise in issues related to land use  
9 planning;

10                  (v)    Three representatives of the Baltimore County government;

11                  (vi)   Two representatives of the Reisterstown–Glyndon–Owings  
12 Mills Chamber of Commerce; and

13                  (vii)   One representative of the Owings Mills Corporate  
14 Roundtable.

15           (c)    The Senator and the Delegate designated as members of the Commission  
16 under subsection (b)(1) of this section as representatives of the legislative district in  
17 which the Rosewood Center is located shall co-chair the Commission.

18           (d)    The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of  
19 General Services, and the Department of Planning shall provide staff support for the  
20 Commission.

21           (e)    A member of the Commission:

22                   (1)    May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission;  
23 and

24                   (2)    Is not entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
25 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26           (f)    The Commission shall:

27                   (1)    Review, discuss, and analyze options for the use of the land and  
28 buildings at the Rosewood Center once it is closed; and

29                   (2)    Make recommendations about how the property could best be used  
30 once the Rosewood Center is closed.

1           (g)   (1)   On or before January 1, 2009, the Commission shall submit an  
2 interim report of its activities, together with any interim findings and  
3 recommendations it wishes to put forth, to the Governor and, in accordance with §  
4 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

5           (2)   On or before January 1, 2010, the Commission shall submit a final  
6 report of its activities, findings, and recommendations to the Governor and, in  
7 accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

8           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
9 Health and Mental Hygiene, acting under the State property disposition process  
10 through the Department of Planning, the Department of General Services, and the  
11 Department of Transportation, may not transfer ownership or dispose of any land or  
12 building at the Rosewood Center until after the final report of the Commission has  
13 been submitted to the Governor and to the General Assembly in accordance with this  
14 Act.

15           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,  
17 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.