

SENATE BILL 703

J1, P1

8lr2792

By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Reassigned: Finance, February 7, 2008

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2008

CHAPTER _____

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 and develop a certain master plan; requiring the Commission to make certain
10 reports to the Governor and the General Assembly by certain dates; providing
11 for the termination of this Act; prohibiting the transfer or disposition of
12 buildings or land associated with the Rosewood Center until after a certain
13 report is submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly; and generally
14 relating to the establishment of the Commission on Land Use at the Rosewood
15 Center.

16 Preamble

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

21 WHEREAS, At its inception the Rosewood Center encompassed a 683-acre
22 campus and at its peak consisted of 43 buildings totaling 730,000 square feet, and still

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 today comprises 300 acres and 26 buildings in active use totaling 480,000 square feet;
2 and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Although at one time Rosewood was home to nearly 3,000
10 individuals, it is currently licensed to serve a total of 225 residents and on January 15,
11 2008, had 156 individuals in residence; and

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

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

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

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That:

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

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

27 (1) ~~Two~~ Four members of the General Assembly, including:

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

30 (ii) ~~One member~~ The three members of the House of Delegates,
31 ~~appointed by the Governor, who represents~~ represent the legislative district in which
32 the Rosewood Center is located;

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

1 (3) ~~The Director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration, or~~
 2 ~~the Director's designee;~~

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

4 ~~(5)~~ (4) The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;

5 ~~(6)~~ (5) The following members appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) Five individuals who reside in the community surrounding
 7 the Rosewood Center;

8 (ii) ~~Two representatives~~ One representative of the
 9 developmental disabilities community;

10 (iii) One individual with expertise in issues relating to
 11 transportation in the northwest Baltimore County area;

12 (iv) One individual with expertise in issues related to land use
 13 planning;

14 (v) ~~Three~~ Two representatives of the Baltimore County
 15 government;

16 (vi) ~~Two representatives~~ One representative of the
 17 Reisterstown–Glyndon–Owings Mills Chamber of Commerce; ~~and~~

18 (vii) One representative of the ~~Owings Mills Corporate~~
 19 ~~Roundtable~~ Reisterstown–Owings Mills–Glyndon Coordinating Council; ~~and~~

20 (viii) One representative of the Valley's Planning Council.

21 (c) ~~The Senator and the Delegate designated as members of the Commission~~
 22 ~~under subsection (b)(1) of this section as representatives of the legislative district in~~
 23 ~~which the Rosewood Center is located shall co-chair~~ Secretary of the Department of
 24 General Services shall be Chairman of the Commission.

25 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of
 26 General Services, and the Department of Planning shall provide staff support for the
 27 Commission.

28 (e) A member of the Commission:

29 (1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission;
 30 and

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

1 (f) The Commission shall:

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

4 (2) Make recommendations about how the property could best be used
5 once the Rosewood Center is closed; and

6 (3) Develop a master plan for the future use of the Rosewood Center
7 property.

8 (g) (1) ~~On or before January 1, 2009, the Commission shall submit an~~
9 ~~interim report of its activities, together with any interim findings and~~
10 ~~recommendations it wishes to put forth, to the Governor and, in accordance with §~~
11 ~~2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.~~

12 (2) On or before January 1, ~~2010~~ 2009, the Commission shall submit a
13 final report of its activities, findings, and recommendations to the Governor and, in
14 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

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

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
23 General Assembly that the buildings and grounds of the Rosewood Center be sold or
24 leased at market value to a private or nonprofit entity and that the funds be dedicated
25 to the Community Services Trust Fund for its intended purposes.

26 SECTION ~~3.~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
27 effect July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~2 years~~ 1 year and, at the
28 end of June 30, ~~2010~~ 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
29 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.