

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 144

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -  
Health and Mental Hygiene)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Mental Hygiene Administration Facilities - Repeal of Provisions that Relate to  
Closed Facilities**

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This departmental bill repeals provisions of law relating to three Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) facilities that have closed: Crownsville Hospital Center; Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents (RICA) – Southern Maryland; and Walter P. Carter Center.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small businesses (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** Three institutions have ceased to be funded and are no longer facilities under MHA: Crownsville Hospital Center (in 2007); RICA – Southern Maryland (in 2008); and Walter P. Carter Center (in 2009). These closures have occurred as State-operated psychiatric facilities have confronted a number of challenges, including (1) an increasingly forensic patient population; (2) declining admissions; (3) staff shortages; and (4) aging facilities that are, in some cases, vestiges of an era of institutional care in which thousands of patients filled each psychiatric hospital campus.

State-run psychiatric facilities that continue to operate under MHA include Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, Eastern Shore Hospital Center, RICA – Baltimore, RICA – Rockville, Springfield Hospital Center, Spring Grove Hospital Center, and Thomas B. Finan Hospital Center.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 377 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee) (By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene) – 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 7, 2011  
ncs/mwc

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Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

## ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Mental Hygiene Administration Facilities – Repeal of Provisions  
That Relate to Closed Facilities

BILL NUMBER: SB 144

PREPARED BY: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

### PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL  
BUSINESSES

### PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.