

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 972
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with the first “Mental” in line 2 down through “Maintenance” in line 3 and substitute “Task Force to Evaluate Mental Health Care Delivery on the Eastern Shore”; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 4 down through “Center” in line 10 and substitute “establishing the Task Force to Evaluate Mental Health Care Delivery on the Eastern Shore; providing for the composition, cochairs, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to evaluate certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain legislative committees on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Evaluate Mental Health Care Delivery on the Eastern Shore”; and strike in their entirety lines 11 through 15, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 17, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 18 on page 1 down through line 12 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Task Force to Evaluate Mental Health Care Delivery on the Eastern Shore.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(Over)

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health and Disabilities of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Deputy Secretary's designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;

(6) the Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, or the Executive Director's designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Mid-Shore Regional Council, or the Executive Director's designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council, or the Executive Director's designee;

(9) the Chief Executive Officer of Shore Health System, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;

(10) the Chief Executive Officer of Peninsula Regional Medical Center, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;

(11) the Executive Director of AFSCME Maryland, or the Executive Director's designee;

(12) the Chairman of the Board of the Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center who served on the Board at the time of the Center's closure, or the Chairman's designee;

(13) the Executive Director of the Lower Shore Clinic, or the Executive Director's designee; and

(14) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) three mental health professionals;

(ii) one representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness;

(iii) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;

(iv) one representative of the Maryland Psychological Association; and

(v) three health officers:

1. one of whom shall be from Cecil County, Kent County, or Queen Anne's County;

2. one of whom shall be from Caroline County, Dorchester County, or Talbot County; and

3. one of whom shall be from Somerset County, Wicomico County, or Worcester County.

(c) The member appointed from the Senate of Maryland and the member appointed from the House of Delegates shall serve as cochairs of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall evaluate the state of mental health care delivery on the Eastern Shore, including:

(1) whether and to what extent patients with mental illness are being referred to out-of-state mental health facilities;

(2) the adequacy of the mental health care workforce;

(3) the impact the closure of the Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center has had on communities in the former service area of the Center;

(4) the feasibility of reopening the Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center;

(5) the barriers to accessibility of mental health services on the Eastern Shore;

(6) the volume of admissions and mix of forensic and nonforensic patients in State-run psychiatric facilities; and

(7) whether there is sufficient capacity for non-forensic patients in State-run psychiatric facilities.

(g) On or before December 31, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.”.

On page 2, in line 13, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; in line 14, strike “October” and substitute “June”; and in the same line, after “2013.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 8 months and, at the end of January 31, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.