

HOUSE BILL 488

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CF SB 84

By: **Delegates Pena–Melnyk, Braveboy, Bromwell, Costa, Cullison, Donoghue, Elliott, Hubbard, A. Kelly, Morhaim, Murphy, Oaks, Reznik, Tarrant, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2014
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services – Name Change**

3 FOR the purpose of changing the name of the Joint Committee on Access to Mental
4 Health Services to the Joint Committee on Access to Behavioral Health
5 Services; altering the duties of the Committee by requiring it to monitor access
6 to certain behavioral health services and certain medically necessary services;
7 altering the information that must be included in a certain report to the
8 Governor and the General Assembly; and generally relating to changing the
9 name of the Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – State Government
12 Section 2–10A–05
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – State Government**

18 2–10A–05.

19 (a) In this section, “Committee” means the Joint Committee on Access to
20 [Mental] **BEHAVIORAL** Health Services.

21 (b) There is a Joint Committee on Access to [Mental] **BEHAVIORAL** Health
22 Services.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) (1) The Committee consists of ten members.

2 (2) Of the ten members:

3 (i) five shall be Senators, appointed by the President; and

4 (ii) five shall be Delegates, appointed by the Speaker.

5 (3) Of the five Senators:

6 (i) two shall be members of the Finance Committee;

7 (ii) one shall be a member of the Budget and Taxation
8 Committee;

9 (iii) one shall be a member of the Education, Health, and
10 Environmental Affairs Committee; and

11 (iv) one shall be a member of the Judicial Proceedings
12 Committee.

13 (4) Of the five Delegates:

14 (i) two shall be members of the Health and Government
15 Operations Committee;

16 (ii) one shall be a member of the Appropriations Committee;

17 (iii) one shall be a member of the Economic Matters Committee;
18 and

19 (iv) one shall be a member of the Judiciary Committee.

20 (d) The members of the Committee serve at the pleasure of the presiding
21 officer who appointed them.

22 (e) (1) From among the membership of the Committee, the President
23 shall appoint a Senator to serve as the Senate Chair of the Committee, and the
24 Speaker shall appoint a Delegate to serve as the House Chair of the Committee.

25 (2) The Senate Chair and the House Chair shall alternate annually as
26 presiding chairs and cochairs of the Committee.

27 (f) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff assistance to
28 the Committee.

1 (g) The Committee shall monitor access to:

2 (1) public [mental] **BEHAVIORAL** health services for eligible
3 individuals; and

4 (2) medically necessary [mental] **BEHAVIORAL** health services for
5 individuals covered by private insurance.

6 (h) The Committee shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, in
7 accordance with § 2–1246 of this title, to the General Assembly, regarding:

8 (1) systemic barriers to access to [mental] **BEHAVIORAL** health
9 services; and

10 (2) recommendations to mitigate these barriers.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2014.