

Chapter 16

(Senate Bill 84)

AN ACT concerning

Joint Committee on Access to Mental Health Services – Name Change

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

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

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

Article – State Government

2–10A–05.

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

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

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

(2) Of the ten members:

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

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

(3) Of the five Senators:

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

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

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

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

(4) Of the five Delegates:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) The Committee shall monitor access to:

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

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

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

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

(2) recommendations to mitigate these barriers.

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

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2014.