

SENATE BILL 321

E4

5lr2048
CF HB 926

By: ~~Senator Nathan Pulliam~~ Senators Nathan Pulliam and Ferguson

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City and Baltimore County – Police ~~Mental~~ Mental Behavioral Health Units –**
3 **Pilot Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, to the extent practicable, on or before a certain date, the
5 Baltimore City and Baltimore County police departments to establish ~~mental~~
6 behavioral health units; requiring a ~~mental~~ behavioral health unit to consist of at
7 least a certain number of officers who are specially trained to understand the needs
8 of ~~mentally ill~~ individuals with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring mental
9 health and substance use disorders and in cultural sensitivity and cultural
10 competency; requiring the training to be developed in consultation with the
11 Behavioral Health Administration in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
12 establishing the purpose and goals of a ~~mental~~ behavioral health unit; requiring the
13 Baltimore City and Baltimore County police departments to report to the General
14 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the construction of this Act;
15 requiring the Baltimore City Police Department to complete a certain study and
16 make certain recommendations; providing for the termination of this Act; and
17 generally relating to police ~~mental~~ behavioral health units.

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Public Safety
20 Section 3-510
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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.



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

Article – Public Safety

3-510.

(A) ~~ON~~ TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, ON OR BEFORE ~~JUNE~~ OCTOBER 1, 2016, THE BALTIMORE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT EACH SHALL ESTABLISH A ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT.

(B) ~~A MENTAL BEHAVIORAL~~ HEALTH UNIT SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST SIX OFFICERS WHO ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED:

(1) TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF ~~MENTALLY ILL~~ INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, OR CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS; AND

(2) IN CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY.

(C) TRAINING FOR OFFICERS IN A ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT SHALL BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

(D) THE PURPOSE OF A ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT IS TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY CALLS INVOLVING AN INDIVIDUAL SUSPECTED OF HAVING A MENTAL ~~ILLNESS~~ HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, OR CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

(E) ~~THE GOAL~~ GOALS OF A ~~MENTAL~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT ~~IS~~ ARE TO:

(1) DIVERT ~~MENTALLY ILL~~ INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, OR CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS INTO TREATMENT INSTEAD OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; AND

(2) PREVENT AND REDUCE UNNECESSARY USE OF FORCE AND LOSS OF LIFE IN SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, OR CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be construed to interfere with or replace any existing crisis intervention team programs in Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
2 2015, the Baltimore City Police Department shall complete a study and make
3 recommendations regarding the establishment of a behavioral health unit, including
4 recommendations on the structure, size, cost, potential funding sources, and timeline for
5 establishing the behavioral health unit.

6 ~~SECTION 4.~~ SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1,
7 2018, the Baltimore City Police Department and the Baltimore County Police Department
8 shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
9 Article, on the number of emergency calls that their ~~mental~~ behavioral health units
10 responded to in 2016, 2017, and 2018, and the disposition of those calls.

11 ~~SECTION 5.~~ SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 9 months and, at the
13 end of June 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
14 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.