

SENATE BILL 697

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SB 1097/14 – FIN

5lr1428
CF 5lr2500

By: **Senators Hershey, Eckardt, and Mathias**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Workgroup to Evaluate Mental**
3 **Health Care Delivery on the Eastern Shore**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to convene a
5 workgroup to evaluate and make findings and recommendations regarding the state
6 of mental health care delivery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland; requiring the
7 workgroup to include certain individuals; requiring the Department to report the
8 findings and recommendations of the workgroup in a certain manner to certain
9 legislative committees on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the
10 Workgroup to Evaluate Mental Health Care Delivery on the Eastern Shore.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That:

13 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall convene a workgroup to
14 evaluate the state of mental health care delivery on the Eastern Shore of Maryland,
15 including:

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

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

19 (3) the impact the closure of the Upper Shore Community Mental Health
20 Center has had on access to mental health services and drug treatment in communities in
21 the former service area of the Center;

22 (4) the feasibility of reopening the Upper Shore Community Mental Health
23 Center, including:

24 (i) the cost of reopening the Center;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) measures that may be taken to minimize operating expenses at
2 the Center; and

3 (iii) the extent to which the Center may be operated at a cost to the
4 State that is less than the cost of its operation before the Center was closed in 2009;

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

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

9 (7) whether there is sufficient capacity for nonforensic patients in
10 State-run psychiatric facilities.

11 (b) The workgroup convened under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

12 (1) the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health and Disabilities of the
13 Department, or the Deputy Secretary's designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (9) the Executive Director of AFSCME Maryland, or the Executive
29 Director's designee;

30 (10) the Chair of the Board of the Upper Shore Community Mental Health
31 Center who served on the Board at the time of the Center's closure, or the Chair's designee;

1 (11) the Executive Director of the Lower Shore Clinic, or the Executive
2 Director's designee;

3 (12) three mental health professionals;

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

5 (14) one representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;

6 (15) one representative of the Maryland Psychological Association; and

7 (16) three health officers:

8 (i) one of whom shall be from Cecil County, Kent County, or Queen
9 Anne's County;

10 (ii) one of whom shall be from Caroline County, Dorchester County,
11 or Talbot County; and

12 (iii) one of whom shall be from Somerset County, Wicomico County,
13 or Worcester County.

14 (c) On or before December 31, 2015, the Department of Health and Mental
15 Hygiene shall report the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, in accordance
16 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the
17 House Health and Government Operations Committee.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
19 1, 2015.