

# HOUSE BILL 111

J1, J3

8lr0409

---

By: **Delegates Barron, Lierman, Dumais, and Angel**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Defendants Found Incompetent to Stand**  
3 **Trial or Not Criminally Responsible – Commitment**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a court to enter a certain commitment order if the court  
5 makes a certain finding; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to facilitate  
6 the immediate placement of certain defendants in a certain facility on or before a  
7 certain date specified in a commitment order and to provide certain notification to  
8 the court; establishing a rebuttable presumption of contempt in certain  
9 circumstances; requiring a court to issue a certain order for the Department to  
10 appear and show cause for certain actions under certain circumstances; providing  
11 that a lack of available beds in a certain facility is not a sufficient reason for not  
12 making a certain placement; authorizing a court to impose certain sanctions under  
13 certain circumstances; making certain stylistic changes; defining a certain term; and  
14 generally relating to the Maryland Department of Health and the commitment of  
15 defendants found incompetent to stand trial or not criminally responsible.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Criminal Procedure  
18 Section 3–106 and 3–112  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

21 Preamble

22 WHEREAS, The unreasonable detention of defendants found incompetent to stand  
23 trial or not criminally responsible outside a treatment facility is a serious public safety risk  
24 and a violation of the U.S. Constitution; and

25 WHEREAS, Keeping potentially dangerous, seriously mentally ill defendants from  
26 treatment exacerbates their problems and violates their right to due process; and

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, These individuals should promptly undergo competency restoration in  
2 a hospital designated by the Maryland Department of Health and not in a correctional  
3 facility; and

4 WHEREAS, The crisis of delayed treatment for seriously mentally ill and  
5 incompetent defendants in Maryland has been foreseeable for many years and  
6 well-documented, facilitated by a steady reduction in capacity and staff of State hospitals  
7 while the demand for forensic beds has remained constant; and

8 WHEREAS, On August 28, 2017, the Maryland Court of Appeals, in Fredia Powell,  
9 et al. v. Maryland Department of Health, et al., No. 77, September Term 2016, held that,  
10 contrary to the intent of the General Assembly, the Annotated Code of Maryland does not  
11 authorize a court to set a deadline for admission of a defendant into a hospital; and

12 WHEREAS, Seriously mentally ill and incompetent defendants will continue to be  
13 unlawfully housed in detention centers unless the courts have authority to impose  
14 deadlines to enforce court orders; now, therefore,

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

17 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

18 3–106.

19 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY” MEANS:**

20 **(I) A STATE FACILITY MAINTAINED BY THE BEHAVIORAL**  
21 **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 10–406 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;**  
22 **OR**

23 **(II) A STATE RESIDENTIAL CENTER MAINTAINED BY THE**  
24 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION UNDER TITLE 7 OF THE HEALTH**  
25 **– GENERAL ARTICLE.**

26 **(2) “DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A**  
27 **CORRECTIONAL OR DETENTION FACILITY OR A UNIT WITHIN A CORRECTIONAL OR**  
28 **DETENTION FACILITY.**

29 **[(a)] (B)** If, after a hearing, the court finds that the defendant is incompetent to  
30 stand trial but is not dangerous, as a result of a mental disorder or mental retardation, to  
31 self or the person or property of others, the court may set bail for the defendant or authorize  
32 release of the defendant on recognizance.

33 **[(b)] (C) (1) (I)** If, after a hearing, the court finds that the defendant is  
34 incompetent to stand trial and, because of mental retardation or a mental disorder, is a

1 danger to self or the person or property of another, the court [may] **SHALL ENTER AN** order  
2 **THAT** the defendant **BE** committed **BY THE DATE SPECIFIED BY THE COURT IN A**  
3 **COMMITMENT ORDER** to the facility that the [Health] **MARYLAND** Department of  
4 **HEALTH** designates until the court finds that:

5                   **[(i)] 1.**     the defendant no longer is incompetent to stand trial;

6                   **[(ii)] 2.**     the defendant no longer is, because of mental retardation  
7 or a mental disorder, a danger to self or the person or property of others; or

8                   **[(iii)] 3.**     there is not a substantial likelihood that the defendant  
9 will become competent to stand trial in the foreseeable future.

10                   **[(2)] (II)**    If a court commits the defendant because of mental retardation,  
11 the [Health] **MARYLAND** Department of **HEALTH** shall require the Developmental  
12 Disabilities Administration to provide the care or treatment that the defendant needs.

13                   **(2) (I) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL:**

14                               **1. FACILITATE THE IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT IN A**  
15 **DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY OF A DEFENDANT WHO IS COMMITTED UNDER**  
16 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON OR BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED BY THE**  
17 **COURT IN A COMMITMENT ORDER; AND**

18                               **2. NOTIFY THE COURT OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE**  
19 **DEFENDANT WAS ADMITTED TO THE DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY.**

20                               **(II) 1. A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF CONTEMPT SHALL**  
21 **BE ESTABLISHED IF A DEFENDANT WHO HAS BEEN COMMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
22 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS NOT PLACED IN A DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY**  
23 **ON OR BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED BY THE COURT IN A COMMITMENT ORDER.**

24                               **2. THE COURT SHALL ISSUE IMMEDIATELY AN ORDER**  
25 **FOR THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE FOR**  
26 **WHY THE DEFENDANT WAS NOT PLACED AS ORDERED IN THE COMMITMENT ORDER.**

27                               **3. A LACK OF AVAILABLE BEDS IN A DESIGNATED**  
28 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY IS NOT A SUFFICIENT REASON FOR NOT PLACING A**  
29 **DEFENDANT AS ORDERED IN A COMMITMENT ORDER.**

30                               **(III) IF A COURT FINDS THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**  
31 **HEALTH IN CONTEMPT AFTER A PROCEEDING UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
32 **PARAGRAPH, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REMEDY OR SANCTION AVAILABLE TO THE**  
33 **COURT IN A CIVIL OR CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PROCEEDING, THE COURT MAY IMPOSE**

## 1 SANCTIONS, INCLUDING:

2 1. CONTEMPT FINES AGAINST THE MARYLAND  
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ANY OFFICIAL OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
4 HEALTH NOT TO EXCEED \$160 PER DAY FOR EACH VIOLATION;

5 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES AND COSTS  
6 INCURRED BY A DETENTION FACILITY RESULTING FROM A DEFENDANT'S LACK OF  
7 PLACEMENT IN VIOLATION OF A COMMITMENT ORDER; AND

8 3. ANY SANCTION REASONABLY DESIGNED TO COMPEL  
9 COMPLIANCE.

10 [(c)] (D) (1) To determine whether the defendant continues to meet the  
11 criteria for commitment set forth in subsection [(b)] (C) of this section, the court shall hold  
12 a hearing:

13 (i) every year from the date of commitment;

14 (ii) within 30 days after the filing of a motion by the State's Attorney  
15 or counsel for the defendant setting forth new facts or circumstances relevant to the  
16 determination; and

17 (iii) within 30 days after receiving a report from the [Health]  
18 MARYLAND Department OF HEALTH stating opinions, facts, or circumstances that have  
19 not been previously presented to the court and are relevant to the determination.

20 (2) At any time, and on its own initiative, the court may hold a conference  
21 or a hearing on the record with the State's Attorney and the counsel of record for the  
22 defendant to review the status of the case.

23 [(d)] (E) At a competency hearing under subsection [(c)] (D) of this section, if the  
24 court finds that the defendant is incompetent and is not likely to become competent in the  
25 foreseeable future, the court shall:

26 (1) civilly commit the defendant as an inpatient in a medical facility that  
27 the [Health] MARYLAND Department OF HEALTH designates provided the court finds by  
28 clear and convincing evidence that:

29 (i) the defendant has a mental disorder;

30 (ii) inpatient care is necessary for the defendant;

31 (iii) the defendant presents a danger to the life or safety of self or  
32 others;

1 (iv) the defendant is unable or unwilling to be voluntarily committed  
2 to a medical facility; and

3 (v) there is no less restrictive form of intervention that is consistent  
4 with the welfare and safety of the defendant; or

5 (2) order the confinement of the defendant for 21 days as a resident in a  
6 Developmental Disabilities Administration facility for the initiation of admission  
7 proceedings under § 7-503 of the Health – General Article provided the court finds that the  
8 defendant, because of mental retardation, is a danger to self or others.

9 **[(e)] (F)** The provisions under Title 10 of the Health – General Article shall  
10 apply to the continued retention of a defendant civilly committed under subsection **[(d)] (E)**  
11 of this section.

12 **[(f)] (G)** (1) For a defendant who has been found incompetent to stand trial  
13 but not dangerous, as a result of a mental disorder or mental retardation, to self or the  
14 person or property of others, and released on bail or on recognizance, the court:

15 (i) shall hold a hearing annually from the date of release;

16 (ii) may hold a hearing, at any time, on its own initiative; or

17 (iii) shall hold a hearing, at any time, upon motion of the State's  
18 Attorney or the counsel for the defendant.

19 (2) At a hearing under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the court shall  
20 reconsider whether the defendant remains incompetent to stand trial or a danger to self or  
21 the person or property of another because of mental retardation or a mental disorder.

22 (3) At a hearing under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the court may  
23 modify or impose additional conditions of release on the defendant.

24 (4) If the court finds, at a hearing under paragraph (1) of this subsection,  
25 that the defendant is incompetent and is not likely to become competent in the foreseeable  
26 future and is a danger to self or the person or property of another because of mental  
27 retardation or a mental disorder, the court shall revoke the pretrial release of the defendant  
28 and:

29 (i) civilly commit the defendant in accordance with paragraph (1) of  
30 subsection **[(d)] (E)** of this section; or

31 (ii) order confinement of the defendant in accordance with  
32 subsection **[(d)(2)] (E)(2)** of this section.

1           **[(g)] (H)**     If the defendant is found incompetent to stand trial, defense counsel  
2 may make any legal objection to the prosecution that may be determined fairly before trial  
3 and without the personal participation of the defendant.

4           **[(h)] (I)**     The court shall notify the Criminal Justice Information System Central  
5 Repository of any commitment ordered or release authorized under this section and of any  
6 determination that a defendant is no longer incompetent to stand trial.

7 3–112.

8           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY” MEANS:**

9                           **(I) A STATE FACILITY MAINTAINED BY THE BEHAVIORAL**  
10 **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 10–406 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;**  
11 **OR**

12                           **(II) A STATE RESIDENTIAL CENTER MAINTAINED BY THE**  
13 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION UNDER TITLE 7 OF THE HEALTH**  
14 **– GENERAL ARTICLE.**

15                           **(2) “DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A**  
16 **CORRECTIONAL OR DETENTION FACILITY OR A UNIT WITHIN A CORRECTIONAL OR**  
17 **DETENTION FACILITY.**

18           **[(a)] (B)**     Except as provided in subsection **[(c)] (E)** of this section, after a verdict  
19 of not criminally responsible, the court **[immediately shall commit]** **SHALL ENTER AN**  
20 **ORDER THAT** the defendant **BE COMMITTED BY THE DATE SPECIFIED BY THE COURT**  
21 **IN A COMMITMENT ORDER** to the **FACILITY THAT THE [Health] MARYLAND**  
22 **Department OF HEALTH DESIGNATES** for institutional inpatient care or treatment.

23           **[(b)] (C)**     If the court commits a defendant who was found not criminally  
24 responsible primarily because of mental retardation, the **[Health] MARYLAND**  
25 **Department OF HEALTH** shall designate a facility for mentally retarded persons for care  
26 and treatment of the committed person.

27           **(D) (1) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL:**

28                           **(I) FACILITATE THE IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT IN A DESIGNATED**  
29 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY OF A DEFENDANT WHO IS COMMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION**  
30 **(B) OF THIS SECTION ON OR BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED BY THE COURT IN A**  
31 **COMMITMENT ORDER; AND**

32                           **(II) NOTIFY THE COURT OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE**  
33 **DEFENDANT WAS ADMITTED TO THE DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY.**

1           **(2) (I) A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF CONTEMPT SHALL BE**  
2 **ESTABLISHED IF A DEFENDANT WHO HAS BEEN COMMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)**  
3 **OF THIS SECTION IS NOT PLACED IN A FACILITY ON OR BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED**  
4 **BY THE COURT IN A COMMITMENT ORDER.**

5           **(II) THE COURT SHALL ISSUE IMMEDIATELY AN ORDER FOR THE**  
6 **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE FOR WHY THE**  
7 **DEFENDANT WAS NOT PLACED AS ORDERED.**

8           **(III) A LACK OF AVAILABLE BEDS IN A DESIGNATED HEALTH**  
9 **CARE FACILITY IS NOT A SUFFICIENT REASON FOR NOT PLACING A DEFENDANT AS**  
10 **ORDERED IN A COMMITMENT ORDER.**

11           **(3) IF A COURT FINDS THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN**  
12 **CONTEMPT AFTER A PROCEEDING UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN**  
13 **ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REMEDY AND SANCTION AVAILABLE TO THE COURT IN A**  
14 **CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, THE COURT MAY IMPOSE SANCTIONS, INCLUDING:**

15           **(I) CONTEMPT FINES AGAINST THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT**  
16 **OF HEALTH AND ANY OFFICIAL OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOT**  
17 **TO EXCEED \$160 PER DAY FOR EACH VIOLATION;**

18           **(II) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES AND COSTS INCURRED BY**  
19 **A DETENTION FACILITY RESULTING FROM A DEFENDANT'S LACK OF PLACEMENT IN**  
20 **VIOLATION OF A COMMITMENT ORDER; AND**

21           **(III) ANY SANCTION REASONABLY DESIGNED TO COMPEL**  
22 **COMPLIANCE.**

23           **[(c)] (E) After a verdict of not criminally responsible, a court may order that a**  
24 **person be released, with or without conditions, instead of committed to the [Health]**  
25 **MARYLAND Department OF HEALTH, but only if:**

26           (1) the court has available an evaluation report within 90 days preceding  
27 the verdict made by an evaluating facility designated by the [Health] MARYLAND  
28 Department OF HEALTH;

29           (2) the report indicates that the person would not be a danger, as a result  
30 of mental retardation or mental disorder, to self or to the person or property of others if  
31 released, with or without conditions; and

32           (3) the person and the State's Attorney agree to the release and to any  
33 conditions for release that the court imposes.

1            **[(d) (F)]**        The court shall notify the Criminal Justice Information System Central  
2   Repository of each person it orders committed under this section.

3            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4   October 1, 2018.