

SENATE BILL 506

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9lr1938

By: **Senators Elfreth, Augustine, Ellis, Hayes, Hester, Klausmeier, Lam, Washington, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder**
3 **Services – Needs Assessment Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to conduct a certain
5 study to determine the existing capacity and estimated unmet needs for mental
6 health and substance use disorder services by region of the State; requiring that the
7 review of mental health services include certain services; requiring that the study
8 include a review of certain issues related to certain services; authorizing the
9 Department to contract with an entity to conduct the study; requiring the Governor
10 to include a certain appropriation in the State budget in a certain fiscal year for the
11 study; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to the Governor and the
12 General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study of
13 mental health and substance use disorder services by the Maryland Department of
14 Health.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That:

17 (a) The Maryland Department of Health shall conduct a comprehensive statewide
18 study to determine the existing capacity and estimated unmet needs for mental health and
19 substance use disorder services by region of the State.

20 (b) The review of mental health services under this section shall include services
21 for developmental disabilities and behavioral disabilities.

22 (c) The study shall include a review of the following issues related to mental
23 health and substance use disorder services for adults and adolescents:

24 (1) the average daily capacity of:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) public and private inpatient and outpatient facilities; and
- 2 (ii) hospital emergency departments;
- 3 (2) the levels of care provided or offered;
- 4 (3) barriers to patient discharge; and
- 5 (4) the insurance providers accepted for services.
- 6 (d) The Maryland Department of Health may contract with an entity to conduct
- 7 the study required under this section.
- 8 (e) The Governor shall include \$5,000,000 in the State budget for fiscal year 2021
- 9 for the study required under this section.
- 10 (f) On or before December 1, 2020, the Maryland Department of Health shall
- 11 submit a report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
- 12 the General Assembly on the results of the study required under this section.
- 13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 14 October 1, 2019.