

SENATE BILL 707

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6lr2349
CF HB 1014

By: **Senators Ready, Gile, Carozza, Ellis, Hester, Lewis Young, McKay, Muse, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health Law – Danger to the Life or Safety of the Individual or of Others**
3 **– Definition**
4 **(Right to Treatment)**

5 FOR the purpose of defining “danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others” for
6 purposes of the involuntary admission of individuals with mental disorders to a
7 facility or Veterans’ Administration hospital and the emergency evaluation of
8 individuals with mental disorders; and generally relating to involuntary admissions
9 and emergency evaluations of individuals with mental disorders.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 10–601
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 10–601.

19 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (b) “Clinical social worker” means an individual who is licensed under Title 19 of
21 the Health Occupations Article to practice clinical social work.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(C) “DANGER TO THE LIFE OR SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR OF OTHERS” MEANS A SUBSTANTIAL RISK, WHETHER OR NOT THE RISK IS IMMINENT AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S CURRENT CONDITION AND, IF AVAILABLE, PERSONAL, MEDICAL, AND PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY, THAT AS A RESULT OF THE MENTAL DISORDER THE INDIVIDUAL WILL:

(1) CAUSE BODILY HARM TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL;

(2) ENGAGE IN CONDUCT THAT WILL RESULT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT;

(3) BE UNABLE, EXCEPT FOR REASONS OF INDIGENCE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL’S BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, MEDICAL CARE, SELF-PROTECTION, OR SAFETY, TO SUCH A DEGREE AS TO CREATE A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SERIOUS BODILY HARM, SERIOUS ILLNESS, OR DEATH; OR

(4) SUFFER SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S JUDGMENT, REASONING, OR ABILITY TO CONTROL BEHAVIOR, PROVIDED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS CURRENTLY SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED IN THE INDIVIDUAL’S ABILITY TO MAKE A RATIONAL AND INFORMED DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO SUBMIT TO TREATMENT, THAT WILL LIKELY RESULT IN THE INDIVIDUAL MEETING ONE OF THE CRITERIA ENUMERATED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

[(c)] (D) “Electronic record” means a document communicated, received, or stored by electronic means.

[(d)] (E) “Licensed clinical marriage and family therapist” means an individual who is licensed under Title 17, Subtitle 3A of the Health Occupations Article to practice clinical marriage and family therapy.

[(e)] (F) “Licensed clinical professional counselor” means an individual who is licensed under Title 17, Subtitle 3A of the Health Occupations Article to practice clinical professional counseling.

[(f)] (G) “Physician” means an individual who is licensed under Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article to practice medicine in this State.

[(g)] (H) “Psychiatric nurse practitioner” means an individual who is:

(1) Licensed as a registered nurse and certified as a nurse practitioner under Title 8 of the Health Occupations Article; and

(2) Practicing in the State as a certified registered nurse practitioner—psychiatric mental health.

1 **[(h)] (i)** “Psychologist” means an individual who is licensed under Title 18 of the
2 Health Occupations Article to practice psychology.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2026.