

SENATE BILL 707

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6lr2349
CF HB 1014

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

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health Law – Definition of Danger to the Life or Safety of the Individual**
3 **or of Others – Definition and Reports on Emergency Evaluation Petitions**
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; requiring the Behavioral Health Administration
9 to submit to the General Assembly certain reports regarding the use of petitions for
10 emergency evaluation; and generally relating to involuntary admissions and
11 emergency evaluations of individuals with mental disorders.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Health – General
14 Section 10–601
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Health – General**

20 10–601.

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.



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

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

4 (c) **“DANGER TO THE LIFE OR SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR OF OTHERS”**
5 **MEANS THERE IS, AS A RESULT OF A MENTAL DISORDER, A SUBSTANTIAL RISK,**
6 **~~WHETHER OR NOT THE RISK IS IMMINENT~~ BASED ON CONDUCT THAT IS RECENT AND**
7 **RELEVANT TO THE DANGER THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MAY PRESENT AND IN**
8 **CONSIDERATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S CURRENT CONDITION AND, IF AVAILABLE,**
9 **RECENT PERSONAL, MEDICAL, AND PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY, THAT ~~AS A RESULT OF~~**
10 **~~THE MENTAL DISORDER~~ THE INDIVIDUAL WILL:**

11 (1) **CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY HARM TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR ANOTHER**
12 **INDIVIDUAL; OR**

13 ~~(2) **ENGAGE IN CONDUCT THAT WILL RESULT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**~~
14 ~~**INVOLVEMENT;**~~

15 ~~(3)~~ (2) **BE UNABLE, EXCEPT FOR REASONS OF INDIGENCE, TO**
16 **PROVIDE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL’S BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD, CLOTHING,**
17 **SHELTER, MEDICAL CARE, SELF-PROTECTION, OR SAFETY, TO SUCH A DEGREE AS**
18 **TO CREATE A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF SERIOUS BODILY HARM, SERIOUS ILLNESS, OR**
19 **DEATH IN THE NEAR FUTURE; ~~OR~~**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 [(h)] (I) “Psychologist” means an individual who is licensed under Title 18 of the
9 Health Occupations Article to practice psychology.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

11 (a) (1) Subject paragraph (2) of this subsection, on or before December 15,
12 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, the Behavioral Health Administration shall submit to the
13 General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, a report
14 regarding the use of petitions for emergency evaluation.

15 (2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
16 include data for petitions for emergency evaluations made from October 1 of the year
17 immediately preceding the year in which the report is submitted to September 30 of the
18 year in which the report is submitted, both inclusive.

19 (3) The Behavioral Health Administration shall make each report
20 submitted under paragraph (1) of this subsection available to the public.

21 (b) The report shall include:

22 (1) the number of petitions for emergency evaluation made in the State
23 disaggregated by:

24 (i) the zip codes of where the individuals who were the subject of an
25 emergency petition resided;

26 (ii) the age of the individuals who were the subject of an emergency
27 petition;

28 (iii) the race of the individuals who were the subject of an emergency
29 petition;

30 (iv) the ethnicity of the individuals who were the subject of an
31 emergency petition;

1 (v) the gender of the individuals who were the subject of an
2 emergency petition; and

3 (vi) any co-occurring disabilities of the individuals who were the
4 subject of an emergency petition;

5 (2) the number of emergency petitions made in the State by:

6 (i) a health care provider;

7 (ii) a member of law enforcement; or

8 (iii) another interested person;

9 (3) the reason the petitions for emergency evaluation were made,
10 including:

11 (i) threat of serious bodily harm to self;

12 (ii) action of serious bodily harm to self;

13 (iii) threat of serious bodily harm to others;

14 (iv) action of serious bodily harm to others; or

15 (v) substantial inability to meet basic needs to such a degree as to
16 create a substantial risk of:

17 1. serious bodily harm;

18 2. serious illness; or

19 3. death;

20 (4) whether and how use of force was employed, subject to the
21 requirements established in § 3-524 of the Public Safety Article, in serving each petition;
22 and

23 (5) the result of each petition for emergency evaluation, including whether
24 the individual was:

25 (i) not served or unable to be located within the required time frame;

26 (ii) evaluated by a health professional and not admitted for inpatient
27 care;

1 (iii) evaluated by a health professional and voluntarily admitted for
2 inpatient care; or

3 (iv) evaluated by a health professional and involuntarily admitted for
4 inpatient care.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.