



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 807**

**DATE: March 8, 2022**

**SPONSOR: Senator Hough**

**ASSIGNED TO: Finance**

**CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey** (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**POSITION: SUPPORT (Department of Health and Human Services)**

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### **Frederick County – Mental Health Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program**

Senate Bill 807 creates an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) pilot program for mental health treatment in Frederick County. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services supports the expansion of the utilization of AOT within Maryland.

Currently in Maryland, the only access to AOT is through a pilot program in Baltimore City (created by CH576 of 2017), which is available only for individuals transitioning out of involuntary inpatient treatment and who have a mental illness diagnosis. Maryland is one of only three states with no comprehensive AOT laws<sup>1</sup> in the country. Assisted outpatient treatment has been shown to reduce rates of hospitalization, arrest, and incarceration in states where it has been implemented.<sup>2</sup> In 1999, New York State enacted legislation commonly referred to as “Kendra’s Law,” which provides for assisted treatment for certain people with mental illness who are unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision, based on their treatment history and present circumstances. The National Alliance on Mental Illness issued a report that includes interviews with family members, many of whom praise the program.<sup>3</sup>

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services supports the legislature increasing access to AOT and respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 807.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ncsc.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/16964/mhf2-assisted-outpatient-treatment-jan-2020.pdf](https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/16964/mhf2-assisted-outpatient-treatment-jan-2020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/component/content/article/39>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.naminys.org/ADTfinal.pdf>