

SB 2 - Support Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Rivkin

Position: FAV

Deborah Rivkin
Vice President
Government Affairs – Maryland

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
1501 S. Clinton Street, Suite 700
Baltimore, MD 21224-5744
Tel. 410-528-7054
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SB 2 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record

Position: Support

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of Senate Bill 2. This bill authorizes a petition for emergency evaluation to be in the form of an electronic record by repealing and reenacting with amendments existing Md. Health Code Ann. §§ 10-601 and 10-624.

As part of its mission, CareFirst is committed to driving transformation of the healthcare experience with and for our members and communities. We believe ensuring equitable access to quality, affordable behavioral health services is essential to advancing holistic care and improving health outcomes. Fundamental to holistic care is an informed strategy to address the behavioral health needs of our members and the communities we serve.

Authorizing petitions for emergency evaluations to be in the form of electronic records will enable providers to quickly arrange for a patient's transportation to the nearest emergency facility, if needed, which should minimize the likelihood of adverse events. Efficiency is critical to improving mental health outcomes as it ensures timely delivery of care in urgent situations. Furthermore, helping individuals quickly reach the emergency facility and be examined by a physician will allow CareFirst and other entities that provide mental health care and critical support services to deploy resources more effectively.

CareFirst strongly supports the policy goals advanced by Senate Bill 2. We look forward to continued partnerships with legislators, the Maryland Health Department, mental health providers, public health groups, and other stakeholders to employ targeted strategies to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our members, provider partners, employees, and communities.

We urge a favorable report.

About CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

In its 84th year of service, CareFirst, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is a not-for-profit healthcare company which, through its affiliates and subsidiaries, offers a comprehensive portfolio of health insurance products and administrative services to 3.4 million individuals and employers in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia. In 2019, CareFirst invested \$43 million to improve overall health, and increase the accessibility, affordability, safety, and quality of healthcare throughout its market areas. To learn more about CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, visit our website at www.carefirst.com and our transforming healthcare page at www.carefirst.com/transformation, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#).

SB 2 Mental Health Law- Petitions for Emergency Ev

Uploaded by: Erin Dorrien

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 2 - Mental Health Law - Petitions for Emergency Evaluation - Electronic Record

Position: Support
January 25, 2022
Senate Finance Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 2.

Maryland hospitals are on the front lines of the state's behavioral health crisis. Hospitals and their partners improved access to the most appropriate level of care for Marylanders overall, but for the one in five living with a mental health or substance use disorder, the emergency department (ED) often remains the only door to access treatment.

In a 2019 study of [Behavioral Health Delays in Emergency Departments](#), which lasted 45 days, there were 4,768 patients treated for a behavioral health condition in one of the 29 participating hospitals. Of those, 2,009 patients—42%—experienced a discharge or transfer delay, meaning they were “stuck” in a hospital emergency department once their next level of care was identified. About 25% of patients were brought to the hospital emergency department by a peace officer on an emergency petition.

Emergency department waits and transfer or discharge delays are not ideal for any patient, particularly those in a psychiatric crisis. Often these discharge or transfer delays occur due to capacity issues at a receiving facility. Yet, sometimes administrative barriers exacerbate or cause delays.

Current law requires a paper copy of an original emergency petition to follow a patient. This is out of step with technology available today. SB 2 would allow emergency petitions to be transmitted electronically. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many hearings were held virtually. However an original paper document was still required to move with the patient. Electronic transmission of emergency petition documents would align the process with medical record technology and eliminate some administrative delays that patients may face.

For these reasons, MHA requests a favorable report on SB 2.

For more information, please contact:
Erin Dorrien, Director, Government Affairs & Policy
Edorrien@mhaonline.org

SB2_Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance_fav.

Uploaded by: Evelyn Burton

Position: FAV



Testimony for SB 2, Mental Health Law - Petitions for Emergency Evaluation - Electronic Record
Senate: Finance Committee

Date: January 25, 2022

From: Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance
Evelyn Burton, Maryland Advocacy Chair

Position: SUPPORT

The Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance strongly supports SB 2.

When an authorized medical professional or peace officer determines that an individual's behavior is indicative of a mental disorder and presents emergency evaluation a danger to self or others, emergency evaluation is the first step necessary to provide needed inpatient treatment to those whose illness itself, makes them unable to realize their critical need for treatment.

Prompt emergency evaluation can mean the difference between life and death. It can prevent suicides, violence, and victimization.

SB 2 facilitates emergency evaluation by permitting an emergency petition to be in the form of an electronic record. Electronic processing will make petitioning easier and waste significantly less time for the outpatient provider, reducing the likelihood of delay. This would expedite processing and the individual could be evaluated and receive needed treatment sooner.

Research has shown that it is essential to receive effective treatment for a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder as soon as possible, to avoid brain damage¹, a worsening of the condition, and reduced chance of recovery. This is especially important for individuals with psychosis where "an increase in DUP [duration of untreated psychosis] from 1 week to 4 weeks is associated with >20% more severe symptoms."² Prompt treatment of severe mental illness can also reduce the social consequences of untreated serious mental illness, including homelessness, arrest, and incarceration. ³

Therefore, we request that SB 2 be given a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

NOTES

¹ Gerald Martone. Is psychosis toxic to the brain? Current Psychiatry April 2020 p12-13

<https://cdn.mdedge.com/files/s3fs-public/CP01904012.PDF>

²Howes, O.D et al (2021) The clinical significance of duration of untreated psychosis: an umbrella review and random-effects meta-analysis. World Psychiatry, 20(1), 75-95.

³Consequences of Non-Treatment <https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/key-issues/consequences-of-non-treatment>

4 - SB 2 - FIN - MDH - LOS.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Shek

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 2 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record
– Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 2 – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record.

SB 2 will allow a Petition for Emergency Evaluation (petition) to be in the form of an electronic record. Quick decisions have to be made based on the clinical information in a petition, therefore immediate access is crucial. The ability to process a petition in the form of an electronic record will streamline and modernize the emergency petition process, create efficiencies in information sharing, and promote timely mental health evaluations.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Heather Shek, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs at (443) 695-4218 or heather.shek@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary

SB 2 NAMI-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Moira Cyphers

Position: FAV

January 21, 2022

Senate Bill 2 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record - SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a statewide network of more than 45,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations and service providers. NAMI Maryland is dedicated to providing education, support and advocacy for persons with mental illnesses, their families and the wider community.

When mental illness is present, the potential for crisis is never far from mind. Crisis episodes related to mental illness can feel incredibly overwhelming. There's the initial shock, followed by a flood of questions — the most prominent of which is: "What can we do?" People experiencing mental illness — and the people who care for them — need access to health care services.

Unlike other health emergencies, people experiencing mental health crises have a more difficult time accessing important, potentially life-saving services, and on occasion, that is where emergency petitions come in. A physician, licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, county health officer or designee, or law enforcement officer can file a petition for emergency evaluation for possible involuntary hospitalization. These professionals must give the petition to a law enforcement officer. If the petitioner cannot go in person to a law enforcement station, a law enforcement officer will sometimes go to the petitioner's office.

At this point in the process, individuals experiencing crisis need immediate care. This legislation will modernize the emergency petition process by permitting the use of digital signatures to ensure that individuals can be admitted to the hospital in a timely manner.

NAMI Maryland supports this legislation because it will provide greater certainty for people experiencing mental health crises and their loved ones during a process that can often be scary and traumatic – especially if an individual needs to travel far from home to find an in-patient bed. Like any other health crisis, it's important to address a mental health emergency quickly and effectively. With mental health conditions, crises can be difficult to predict because, often, there are no warning signs. Crises can occur even when treatment plans have been followed and mental health professionals are involved. Unfortunately, unpredictability is the nature of mental illness. This change will make a difficult time a bit smoother for individuals and their families.

For these reasons, NAMI Maryland asks for a favorable report on **SB 2**.

Kathryn S. Farinholt
Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland

Contact: Moira Cyphers
Compass Government Relations
MCyphers@compassadvocacy.com

2022 LCPCM SB 2 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 2

Title: Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record

Hearing Date: January 25, 2022

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 2 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record*. This bill allows a petition for emergency evaluation to be transmitted electronically.

LCPCM supports this bill because we must modernize our laws to reflect the increased use of technology in providing care. As the use of telehealth and licensure compacts continue to expand, more patients are receiving services from behavioral health providers who may not be local. These remote providers still need to have the ability to submit emergency petitions when their clients are in crisis, and this bill will ensure that is possible. Additionally, when a patient is in crisis, it is important that they are connected to emergency services as soon as possible. This bill will help limit any delays in the emergency petition process and help ensure smooth access to emergency care.

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 2 in order to help modernize our state's emergency petition process. If we can provide any further information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.

2022 NASW SB 2 Senate Side (002).pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FAV

**Testimony before Finance Committee
Support**

**SB 2 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record
January 25, 2022**

Maryland’s Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW–MD), which represents professional social workers across the state, supports Senate Bill 2 – *Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record*. This bill allows a petition for emergency evaluation to be transmitted electronically.

NASW supports this bill because we must modernize our laws to reflect the increased use of technology in providing care. As the use of telehealth and licensure compacts continue to expand, more patients are receiving services from behavioral health providers who may not be local. These remote providers still need to have the ability to submit emergency petitions when their clients are in crisis, and this bill will ensure that is possible. Additionally, when a patient is in crisis, it is important that they are connected to emergency services as soon as possible. This bill will help limit any delays in the emergency petition process and help ensure smooth access to emergency care

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 2. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Beth DeMartino, LCSW-C, Executive Director, NASW MD (mdemartino.naswmd@socialworkers.org).

MCPA-MSA_SB 2 _Electronic Emergency Petitions.pdf

Uploaded by: Sheriff Darren Popkin

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair and
Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 25, 2022

RE: **SB 2 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 2**. This bill authorizes a petition for emergency evaluation to be provided as an electronic record.

Maryland's Emergency Petition (EEP) statute allows a person who is an immediate threat to themselves or others, to be taken into custody by law enforcement and transported to an emergency hospital facility for rapid evaluation regarding the need for emergency treatment. Although the EEP statute in Maryland has been a very valuable process to provide individuals who may be suffering with certain mental health disorders immediate treatment, the ability to provide an electronic copy to the emergency hospital facility, would greatly enhance the safety of the Respondent patient.

Currently, the hospital emergency rooms will only accept the original EEP document, which often leads to significant delays in either serving the order or appropriate treatment being provided by medical staff. Often EEPs that may be issued in a District or Circuit Court of a particular County, may lead law enforcement to other jurisdictions in Maryland. If the respondent is located in another jurisdiction, the original EEP document must be personally driven by valuable law enforcement resources to the other jurisdiction, no matter how long the travel time and distance, delaying the required mental health treatment.

Authorizing EEP documentation to be provided electronically expedites this process and would allow necessary emergency treatment to be provided in a more immediate timeframe. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 2** and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB0002_FAV_MedChi_MH - Petitions for Emergency Eva

Uploaded by: Steve Wise

Position: FAV

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915

1.800.492.1056

www.medchi.org

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: January 25, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 2 – *Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 2.

Senate Bill 2 amends the Emergency Evaluation portion of the Mental Health law. Currently, a lay person seeking an emergency petition to have an individual evaluated must appear in court so that a judge can determine whether probable cause exists to evaluate that individual. Alternatively, a licensed health professional can sign the petition. In both circumstances, the result is a petition, which is then presented to a peace officer, who must take the individual to an emergency facility for evaluation.

The current law does not expressly allow for the petition to be in electronic form. Senate Bill 2 would change that. This would allow, for example, a licensed health professional to transmit the petition to the peace officer electronically, rather than physically having to deliver the petition over some distance. In short, the bill brings the law into the 21st century and allows the use of electronic transmission of the petition.

MedChi urges the Committee's support for Senate Bill 2.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

SB 2 - Support - MPS WPS.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Tompsett

Position: FAV



**Washington
Psychiatric Society**

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – SB 2: Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record

Dear Chairman Kelley and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

Under current law, an emergency petition (EP) has to be submitted in paper directly to a law enforcement professional. However, given that many mental health clinicians are working from home, and may live outside the police jurisdiction of the patient, the ability to file an EP remotely will ensure a more prompt response to psychiatric emergencies. In addition, SB 2 will also help to prevent a sad reality that many EPs get lost in transit with surprising frequency.

Therefore, MPS and WPS ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 2. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee

SB0002-813729-01.pdf

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FWA



SB0002/813729/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

20 JAN 22
14:12:43

BY: Senator Augustine
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 2
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after “record” insert “and transmitted and received electronically”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, strike beginning with “**CREATED**” in line 17 down through “**SENT,**” in line 18.

On page 2, in line 22, strike “**IN**” and substitute “:

(I) IN”;

and in the same line, after “**RECORD**” insert “:**AND**

(II) TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY”.

On page 3, in line 6, strike “**IN**” and substitute “:

(I) IN”;

and in the same line, after “**RECORD**” insert “:**AND**

(II) TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY”.

SB2 MH Emergency Petitions Sen Augustine Sponsor T

Uploaded by: Malcolm Augustine

Position: FWA

MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
Legislative District 47
Prince George's County

Finance Committee

Energy and Public Utilities Subcommittee

Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3745 · 301-858-3745
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Fax 410-841-3387 · 301-858-3387
Malcolm.Augustine@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

1/25/22

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chairwoman, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB2 - Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic Record

Position: **Favorable with Sponsor Amendment**

Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee,

The Problem:

- Maryland Code allows for **mental health professionals, peace officers, or any interested person to petition for emergency evaluation** at a nearby emergency facility if someone with a known mental disorder is believed to be a danger to themselves or to others.¹
- However, **the law does not specify** whether approved petitions must be received by a peace officer or emergency facility in person, or if they can be received in the form of an electronic record, such as email or fax.²
- Because it has become established practice to deliver approved petitions in person only,³ **the process can take several hours.**⁴
- Receiving these petitions in person has become **even more difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic** – especially for emergency rooms at the receiving end.
- These delays stand as **barriers to evaluation and treatment** and present added challenges for mental health providers and loved ones to **pass along critical information** to the receiving emergency facility about the patient.

¹ Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. § 10-622

² Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. § 10-624

³ National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Maryland. What to Do in a Psychiatric Crisis in Maryland. Jul 2010. Accessed 2 Jan 2021. Retrieved from: http://namimd.org/uploaded_files/3/What_to_do_in_a_Psychiatric_Crisis_PDF_for_Web.pdf

⁴ See note 3

What SB2 does:

- Clarifies that law enforcement and/or emergency facilities are allowed to **receive approved petitions for emergency evaluation in the form of an electronic record** – after that petition is either endorsed by a court or signed by a physician or mental health provider.

How SB2 helps:

- **Gives back discretion to police departments and emergency facilities** to monitor their own compliance with the Security Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.⁵
- **Reduces the uncertainty and emotional toll** of the petitioning process on individuals in crisis and their loved ones.
- **Enables better coordination with emergency facilities**, especially with information regarding:
 - Recent changes in **symptoms and behavior**
 - **Medications and dosage**, including recent changes
 - **Contact information for follow-up** with their usual healthcare provider

Sponsor Amendment:

During the interim, we met with the Administrative Office of the Courts to ascertain any concerns. The courts expressed concerns that the bill could be interpreted to permit the electronic filing of the petition. Since the intent of this statutory change is solely to allow electronic transmission of the endorsed order rather than requiring the peace officer to have a paper copy or original, the sponsor amendment was drafted to clarify intent and address that concern of the Courts.

Chair Kelley and members of the committee, I ask for your favorable report as amended.

⁵ 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.302 – 318

PETITIONS FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION: THE CURRENT PROCESS IN MARYLAND (1/19/2022)

"My relative/friend/neighbor is in a psychiatric crisis, their health care provider recommends hospitalization, but they do not want to go voluntarily. What should I do?"



WITNESS



HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



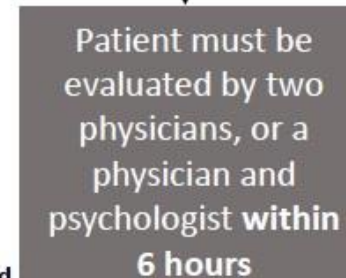
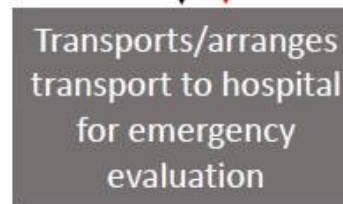
LAW ENFORCEMENT



HOSPITAL

The following people may file a petition **without a judge's approval**, given they have personally evaluated the individual in crisis:

- Physician
- Psychologist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- County health official/designee
- Law enforcement officer



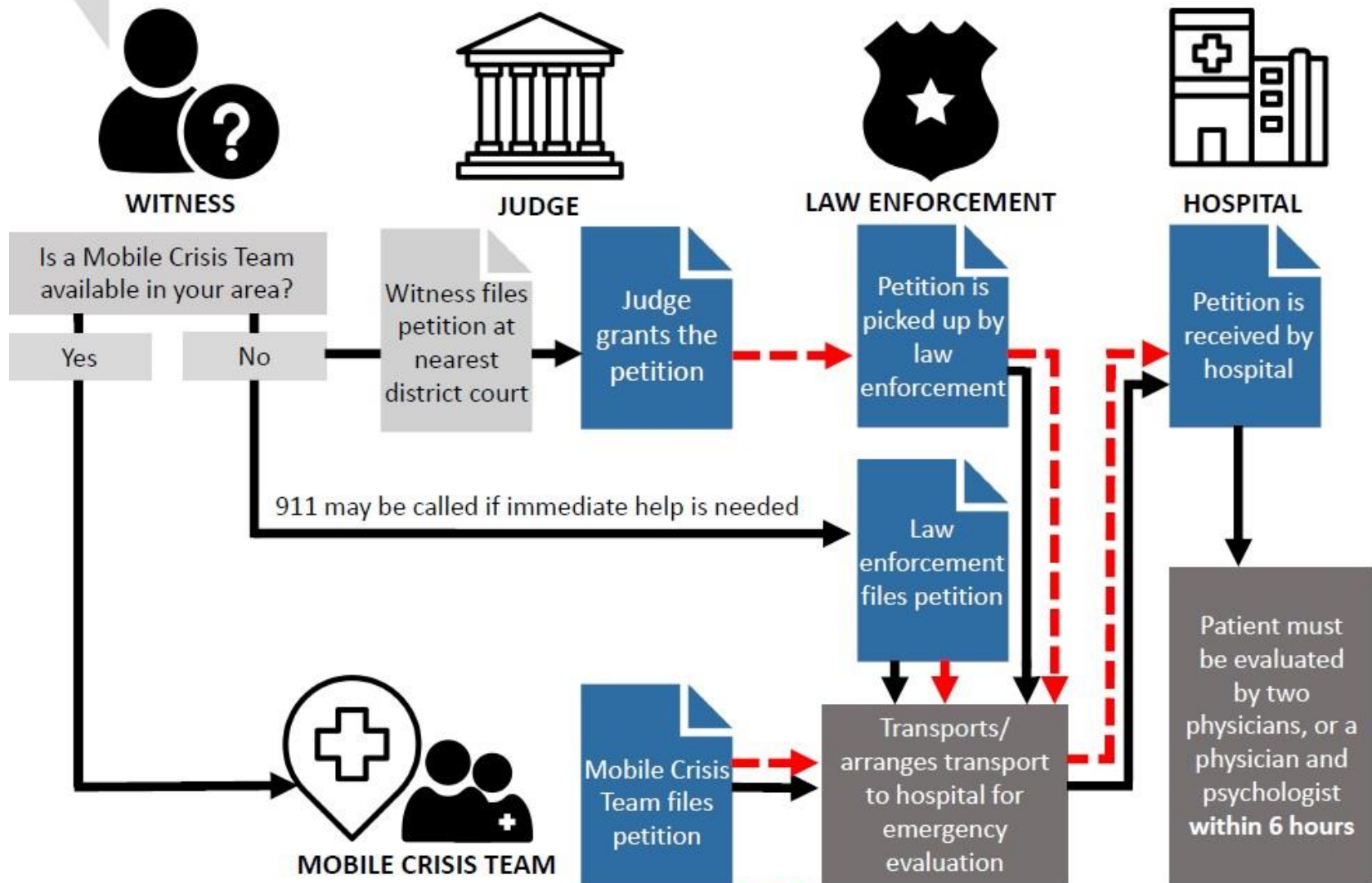
Dashed lines indicate the path by which petitions are being physically delivered

A petition for emergency evaluation can be made only if the petitioner has reason to believe that the individual:

- Has a mental disorder, AND
- The individual presents a danger to the life or safety of the individual or others

PETITIONS FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION: THE CURRENT PROCESS IN MARYLAND (1/19/2022)

“My relative/friend/neighbor is in a psychiatric crisis, and cannot or will not help themselves, and has no health care provider. How can I get the person medical attention?”



Dashed lines indicate the path by which petitions are being physically delivered

sb2.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Elalamy

Position: FWA

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Joseph M. Getty
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill2
Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation –
Electronic Record
DATE: January 12, 2022
(1/25)
POSITION: Support as amended

The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 2 as amended. Senate Bill 2 authorizes a peace officer to provide a record of a petition for emergency evaluation *in electronic form* to an emergency facility; and authorizes an emergency facility to accept an emergency evaluatee in their facility provided the electronic record of the petition for emergency evaluation is made available, and as long as it is otherwise executed properly.

If the intent of this statutory change is solely to allow electronic transmission of the endorsed order rather than requiring the peace officer to have a paper copy or original, then the Judiciary supports additional language added to § 10- 624 to read as follows: **THE PETITION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE IN THE FORM OF AN ELECTRONIC RECORD, AND MAY BE TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY** as well as remove the words “created,” “generated,” and “sent” from the definition of electronic record, This makes it clear that the bill provides for electronic transmittal of a petition for emergency evaluation and not the electronic filing of the petition itself. This bill as amended will provide a more efficient and quicker process for an individual to get an evaluation leading to increased public safety and treatment for the individual.

cc. Hon. Malcolm Augustine
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O’Connor

SB2_MDJudiciary_FWA

Uploaded by: Suzanne Pelz, Esq.

Position: FWA

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Joseph M. Getty
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill2
Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation –
Electronic Record
DATE: January 12, 2022
(1/25)
POSITION: Support as amended

The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 2 as amended. Senate Bill 2 authorizes a peace officer to provide a record of a petition for emergency evaluation *in electronic form* to an emergency facility; and authorizes an emergency facility to accept an emergency evaluatee in their facility provided the electronic record of the petition for emergency evaluation is made available, and as long as it is otherwise executed properly.

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cc. Hon. Malcolm Augustine
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O’Connor