

CHAPTER 628

(House Bill 1594)

AN ACT concerning

Benefits and Services for Individuals Who Are Incarcerated or Institutionalized – Work Group Report

FOR the purpose of extending the date by which a certain work group convened by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Human Resources, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is required to issue a certain report including certain findings and recommendations; and generally relating to a work group report concerning benefits for individuals who are incarcerated or institutionalized.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 82 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005
Section 3

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

Chapter 82 of the Acts of 2005

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Human Resources, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall convene a work group consisting of interested stakeholders to make recommendations on actions to be taken to break the cycle of rearrest and reincarceration for individuals with mental illnesses who become involved with the criminal justice system, including the following:

(1) recommended agency responsibility for and actions to be taken to ensure that suspension and reinstatement of benefits occur in a seamless fashion;

(2) review and clarification of current and recommended agency responsibility for case management services for individuals released from incarceration;

(3) measures to ensure that timely assistance is provided to inmates with psychiatric disabilities who are not on eligibility rolls for federal benefits but who are likely to be eligible for those benefits on release;

(4) recommendations regarding the creation of a State bridge program for released inmates with mental illnesses whose applications for federal benefits are pending;

(5) review and clarification of current and recommended agency responsibility for providing access to medically necessary mental health services for inmates both while incarcerated and on release;