

CHAPTER 263

(Senate Bill 107)

AN ACT concerning

Emergency Psychiatric Evaluations - Payments

FOR the purpose of altering the reimbursement methodology for certain emergency psychiatric services provided as a consequence of an emergency petition; providing that if the emergency evaluatee ~~or-a-responsible-party~~ cannot pay or does not have appropriate insurance for certain services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall pay for these services at actual cost or a reasonable rate subject to certain exceptions; providing that the reasonable rate for services be calculated by using a methodology established by regulation and reasonably related to the actual cost; ~~requiring the Department to reimburse the appropriate party for---certain---services;~~ and generally relating to the reimbursement system for emergency psychiatric evaluations.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General
Section 10-628
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 Volume and 1987 Supplement)

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

Article - Health - General

10-628.

(a) (1) If an emergency evaluatee ~~OR--A-RESPONSIBLE-PARTY~~ CANNOT PAY OR does not have insurance that covers the charges for {emergency} services{, an initial consultant examination by a physician and transportation to an emergency facility and, for an involuntary admission of the emergency evaluatee, to the admitting facility} ~~PROVIDED-AS-A-CONSEQUENCE-OF--AN--EMERGENCY--PETITION,~~ the Department shall pay the appropriate party the [median rate paid for this service in the area of the State where the service is provided] ACTUAL COST OR A REASONABLE RATE FOR THIS SERVICE, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, except that hospitals shall be paid at rates approved by the Health Services Cost Review Commission.