

CHAPTER 295

(House Bill 98)

AN ACT concerning

Mental Hygiene Administration - Children's Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program - Study of Case Rates

FOR the purpose of requiring the Mental Hygiene Administration, in consultation with certain individuals and a certain commission, to study the appropriate utilization level of children's psychiatric rehabilitation services, study the impact of shifting from fee-for-service payments to case rates on the outcomes of care for certain consumers, recalculate the case rate based on the appropriate utilization level, and study certain consumers to determine when multiple tiers of case rates within the community client category can be established; requiring the Mental Hygiene Administration on or before a certain date to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly; and generally relating to a study of the Children's Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) ~~the~~ The Mental Hygiene Administration, in consultation with family members of children who use psychiatric rehabilitation services, advocates, providers, and the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission, shall:

(1) study and determine the appropriate utilization level of children's psychiatric rehabilitation program services;

(2) study the impact of the shift from fee-for-service payments to case rates on the outcomes of care for consumers of children's psychiatric rehabilitation services;

(3) recalculate the case rate based on the appropriate utilization level, taking into account the outcomes of care and the effect of a higher case rate on the Mental Hygiene Administration's budget; and

(4) study the consumer population of children's psychiatric rehabilitation services to determine whether consumers can be classified by level of care in order to establish multiple tiers of case rates within the community client category, taking into account the incentives to shift children to categories with higher payment rates and providing adequate protections to limit these shifts; ~~and~~.

(b) ~~on~~ On or before January 1, 2007, the Mental Hygiene Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the findings and recommendations from the study required under subsection (a) of this section.