

Approved May 2, 2006.

CHAPTER 351

(House Bill 771)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Therapeutic Behavioral Services - Rate Adequacy Study

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a certain study; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to the Governor and certain standing committees of the General Assembly ~~in a certain manner by~~ on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the rates paid to therapeutic behavioral services providers.

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

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a study of the adequacy of rates paid to therapeutic behavioral services providers.

(b) The study shall:

(1) assess the impact of the current rates on:

(i) participation of existing and potential therapeutic behavioral services providers in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(ii) the ability of therapeutic behavioral services providers to recruit and retain staff;

(iii) the ability of ~~MAPS MD~~ the Department to promptly refer a child for receipt of therapeutic behavioral services; and

(iv) the ability of therapeutic behavioral services providers to deliver the requisite number of therapeutic behavioral services hours;

(2) take into account the impact of current rates on outcomes of care for children in need of therapeutic behavioral services; and

(3) be conducted jointly by staff from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Mental Hygiene Administration.

(c) In conducting the study, the Department shall:

(1) ~~provide public notice of the study in the Maryland Register; and~~

(2) solicit input from therapeutic behavioral services providers, mental health professionals, advocates, and families whose children have received or been referred for therapeutic behavioral services.