

**CHAPTER 376**

**(House Bill 459)**

AN ACT concerning

**Mental Health Advisory Committees**

FOR the purpose of altering the requirements for the governing bodies of two or more counties to establish an intercounty mental health advisory committee; authorizing the governing body in Baltimore City to designate Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc. as the mental health advisory committee for Baltimore City; providing for an exception to the membership requirements for a mental health advisory committee in Baltimore City; and generally relating to mental health advisory committees.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 10–308 and 10–309(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

**Article – Health – General**

10–308.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the governing body of each county shall establish a mental health advisory committee.

(b) The purpose of a mental health advisory committee shall be to serve as advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages.

(c) The governing bodies of two or more counties may establish, by agreement, an intercounty mental health advisory committee if:

(1) The population of one of the counties is too small to warrant the establishment of a [community] mental health [program] ADVISORY COMMITTEE for that county; and

(2) The Director consents.

(d) The governing body of a county may establish a joint mental health and addictions advisory committee.

(e) In Howard County, if a quasi-public authority is established under Subtitle 12 of this title, the governing body may designate the authority as the mental health advisory committee for the county.