

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1988.

Approved May 27, 1988.

CHAPTER 587

(Senate Bill 389)

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance - Psychiatric Halfway Houses

FOR the purpose of requiring that certain hospitals or major medical insurance policies provide certain benefits for residency in psychiatric halfway houses approved by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; limiting the annual amount of certain benefits payable for treatment in psychiatric halfway houses; authorizing certain insurers to condition payment of benefits for treatment in a psychiatric halfway house on the certifications of certain health care providers; specifying the applicability of the Act; and generally relating to insurance benefits payable for residency in psychiatric halfway houses.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 48A - Insurance Code
Section 354D, 470E, and 477E
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1986 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)

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

Article 48A - Insurance Code

354D.

(a) Every hospital or major medical contract or certificate delivered or issued for delivery, within this State by a nonprofit health service organization, including both individual policies and group policies, must include benefits for expenses arising from treatment of acute mental illnesses and emotional disorders which in the professional judgment of practitioners are subject to significant improvement through short-term therapy. These benefits must be at least equal to the following minimum requirements: (1) with respect to benefits for confinement as an inpatient in a hospital, the period of confinement for which