

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 10-202(c)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The incumbent Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has enjoyed widespread support from mental health constituencies statewide in his nearly 8 years in the position, and continues to enjoy strong support; and~~

~~WHEREAS, If the incumbent Director ever leaves the position, State law requires that the position be filled by a Board certified physician; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The current restrictive qualifications could preclude the recruitment of a Director with administrative and managerial skills that the incumbent possesses and that are required for today's complex health care environment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, More flexible qualifications would not prevent a physician from holding the position, but would also open the position up to other professionals, including the current Deputy Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration and other nonpsychiatrist Mental Hygiene Administration leaders; now, therefore,~~

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

Article – Health – General

10-202.

(c) The Director shall be [a physician who:

- (1) Is licensed to practice medicine in this State;
 - (2) Is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology;
 - (3) Has devoted a substantial amount of professional time to the practice of psychiatry; and
 - (4) Has clinical and administrative experience in mental hygiene]
- AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1996.

Approved April 30, 1996.