

(7) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO BUILDING PROVIDER CAPACITY AND INCREASING PROVIDER TRAINING TO MEET THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; ~~AND~~

(8) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO IMPROVING THE COORDINATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND

(9) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON METHODS TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DUE TO A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE OR RELEASE FOR A REASON RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MENTAL ILLNESS.

(I) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2009, AND A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2010, TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before September 1, 2008, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the Veterans Behavioral Health Advisory Board established under Section 1 of this Act, shall submit a grant application to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other appropriate federal agency for a minimum of \$3,500,000 in federal funds in fiscal year 2010 and a minimum of \$3,500,000 in federal funds in fiscal year 2011 to support the provision of behavioral health services to veterans under this Act.

(b) The Department shall send a copy of the application required under this section to the members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

~~SECTION 2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of May 31, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2008.