

HOUSE BILL 926

E4

5lr2790
CF SB 321

By: **Delegates Sydnor, Brooks, Carter, Hayes, Haynes, Hettleman, Jalisi, McCray, Morales, B. Robinson, A. Washington, M. Washington, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City and Baltimore County – Police Mental Health Units – Pilot**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date, the Baltimore City and Baltimore
5 County police departments to establish mental health units; requiring a mental
6 health unit to consist of at least a certain number of officers who are specially trained
7 to understand the needs of mentally ill individuals and in cultural sensitivity and
8 cultural competency; requiring the training to be developed in consultation with the
9 Behavioral Health Administration in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
10 establishing the purpose and goals of a mental health unit; requiring the Baltimore
11 City and Baltimore County police departments to report to the General Assembly on
12 or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
13 relating to police mental health units.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Public Safety

16 Section 3–510

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Public Safety**

22 **3–510.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2016, THE BALTIMORE CITY POLICE**
2 **DEPARTMENT AND THE BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT EACH SHALL**
3 **ESTABLISH A MENTAL HEALTH UNIT.**

4 **(B) A MENTAL HEALTH UNIT SHALL CONSIST OF AT LEAST SIX OFFICERS**
5 **WHO ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED:**

6 **(1) TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF MENTALLY ILL INDIVIDUALS; AND**

7 **(2) IN CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY.**

8 **(C) TRAINING FOR OFFICERS IN A MENTAL HEALTH UNIT SHALL BE**
9 **DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**
10 **IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.**

11 **(D) THE PURPOSE OF A MENTAL HEALTH UNIT IS TO RESPOND TO**
12 **EMERGENCY CALLS INVOLVING AN INDIVIDUAL SUSPECTED OF HAVING A MENTAL**
13 **ILLNESS.**

14 **(E) THE GOAL OF A MENTAL HEALTH UNIT IS TO DIVERT MENTALLY ILL**
15 **INDIVIDUALS INTO TREATMENT INSTEAD OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2018,
17 the Baltimore City Police Department and the Baltimore County Police Department shall
18 report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
19 Article, on the number of emergency calls that their mental health units responded to in
20 2016, 2017, and 2018, and the disposition of those calls.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period 3 years and 9 months and, at the end
23 of June 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
24 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.