

SENATE BILL 807

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51r2850
CF 51r2869

By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2015

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Certified Community Behavioral**
3 **Health Clinic Demonstration Program – Grant Application**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to apply to
5 the federal Department of Health and Human Services for a planning grant for a
6 certain purpose; and generally relating to the Department of Health and Mental
7 Hygiene and the federal demonstration program for the establishment of certified
8 community behavioral health clinics.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, The federal Protecting Access to Medicare Act, passed by the United
11 States Congress in 2014, includes provisions of the Excellence in Mental Health Act that
12 establish a 2–year demonstration program to increase access to community mental health
13 and substance use treatment services while improving Medicaid reimbursement for these
14 services; and

15 WHEREAS, The demonstration program provides for the establishment of certified
16 community behavioral health clinics to serve individuals with serious mental illnesses and
17 substance use disorders that provide intensive, person–centered, multidisciplinary,
18 evidence–based screening, assessment, diagnostic, treatment, prevention, and wellness
19 services; and

20 WHEREAS, The federal Department of Health and Human Services will select up to
21 eight states to participate in the demonstration program; and

22 WHEREAS, Maryland is well positioned to become one of the eight demonstration
23 states as it has a strong network of community behavioral health providers ready to meet
24 the standards specified in the federal legislation; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The federal legislation appropriates \$25,000,000 for the purpose of
2 awarding planning grants in January 2016 to states that seek to participate in the
3 demonstration program; and

4 WHEREAS, A state is required to apply for and receive a planning grant to be
5 eligible for selection as a demonstration state; now, therefore,

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall apply to the federal Department
8 of Health and Human Services for a planning grant to have the State selected as a
9 demonstration state for the establishment of certified community behavioral health clinics
10 under the federal Protecting Access to Medicare Act.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
12 1, 2015.