

HOUSE BILL 881

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1r1277
CF SB 815

By: **Delegate Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health Facilities – Sexual Abuse and Harassment – Reporting and**
3 **Prevention**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain mental health facilities to report certain complaints
5 of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to certain entities within a certain time
6 period; requiring the Office of Health Care Quality and the Behavioral Health
7 Administration to develop and implement a certain reporting system; requiring
8 certain mental health facilities to develop and implement certain policies and
9 procedures, ensure that staff provide certain assistance, and develop and oversee
10 certain training and education; requiring the ~~Behavioral Health~~ Administration to
11 ensure that certain policies and procedures are uniform for certain State facilities;
12 requiring certain mental health facilities to use certain screen-tools for a certain
13 purpose, reassign certain patients under certain circumstances, provide a certain
14 patient with certain treatment and education, and ensure that certain staff are
15 trained in a certain trauma recovery modality; requiring certain entities to adopt a
16 certain plan under certain circumstances; altering certain requirements relating to
17 sexual abuse and sexual harassment reporting and prevention for certain State
18 facilities; requiring the Office of ~~Health Care Quality~~ to enforce certain provisions of
19 law; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to adopt certain regulations; and
20 generally relating to mental health facilities and the reporting and prevention of
21 sexual abuse and harassment.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
23 Article – Health – General
24 Section 10-101(a), (g), and (k) and 10-701(a)(1) and (3)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Health – General
5 Section 10–705
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Health – General**

11 10–101.

12 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

13 (g) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, “facility” means any public or
14 private clinic, hospital, or other institution that provides or purports to provide treatment
15 or other services for individuals who have mental disorders.

16 (2) “Facility” does not include a Veterans’ Administration hospital.

17 (k) “State facility” means a facility that is owned or operated by the Department.

18 10–701.

19 (a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (3) “Facility” does not include an acute general care hospital that does not
21 have a separately identified inpatient psychiatric service.

22 10–705.

23 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (2) (i) “Abuse” means cruel or inhumane treatment that causes:

25 1. Any physical injury; or

26 2. Any of the following kinds of sexual abuse:

27 A. A sexual act, as defined in § 3–301 of the Criminal Law
28 Article;

1 B. Sexual contact, as defined in § 3–301 of the Criminal Law
2 Article; or

3 C. Vaginal intercourse, as defined in § 3–301 of the Criminal
4 Law Article.

5 (ii) “Abuse” does not include:

6 1. The performance of an accepted medical procedure that a
7 physician orders in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of this subtitle; or

8 2. An action taken by an employee that complies with
9 applicable State and federal laws and applicable Department policies on the use of physical
10 intervention.

11 (3) “Sexual harassment” means intimidation, bullying, or coercion of a
12 sexual nature or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal
13 or physical conduct of a sexual nature that tends to create a hostile or offensive
14 environment.

15 (b) (1) A person or any employee of a facility or of the Department who receives
16 a complaint of abuse, or who observes or has reason to believe that abuse has occurred,
17 shall promptly report the alleged abuse to:

18 (i) An appropriate law enforcement agency; or

19 (ii) The administrative head of the facility, who promptly shall
20 report the alleged abuse to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

21 (2) A report:

22 (i) May be oral or written; and

23 (ii) Shall contain as much information as the reporter is able to
24 provide.

25 (3) ~~A~~ [State facility] **WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THE**
26 **COMPLAINT, A FACILITY THAT IS A LICENSED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER, A**
27 **STATE FACILITY, OR A HOSPITAL WITH A SEPARATELY IDENTIFIED INPATIENT**
28 **PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE** shall report ~~complaints~~ **A COMPLAINT** of sexual abuse ~~and~~ **OR**
29 sexual harassment **OF A PATIENT RECEIVING TREATMENT IN THE RESIDENTIAL**
30 **TREATMENT CENTER OR RECEIVING INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES** to [the State
31 designated protection and advocacy system]:

32 (I) **THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE**
33 **QUALITY;**

1 (II) IF THE COMPLAINT INVOLVES A MINOR, THE CHILD
2 PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND

3 (III) THE STATE DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY
4 SYSTEM.

5 (4) THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE
6 QUALITY SHALL COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A UNIFORM
7 REPORTING SYSTEM TO BE USED BY FACILITIES IN COMPLYING WITH PARAGRAPH
8 (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

9 (c) (1) The law enforcement agency shall:

10 (i) Investigate thoroughly each report of an alleged abuse; and

11 (ii) Attempt to ensure the protection of the alleged victim.

12 (2) The investigation shall include:

13 (i) A determination of the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse, if
14 any;

15 (ii) The identity of the alleged abuser; and

16 (iii) Any other pertinent fact or matter.

17 (d) As soon as possible, but no later than 10 working days after the completion of
18 the investigation, the law enforcement agency shall submit a written report of its findings
19 to the State's Attorney, the State designated protection and advocacy system, and the
20 administrative head of the facility.

21 (e) A person shall have the immunity from liability described under § 5-626 of
22 the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article for:

23 (1) Making a report under this section;

24 (2) Participating in an investigation arising out of a report under this
25 section; or

26 (3) Participating in a judicial proceeding arising out of a report under this
27 section.

28 (f) (1) [The Administration shall ensure that State facilities] A FACILITY
29 THAT IS A LICENSED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER, A STATE FACILITY, OR A

1 HOSPITAL WITH A SEPARATELY IDENTIFIED INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE
2 SHALL:

3 [(1)] (I) Develop [uniform] AND IMPLEMENT policies and procedures on
4 making and responding to allegations AND COMPLAINTS of sexual abuse or sexual
5 harassment OF PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT IN THE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT
6 CENTER OR RECEIVING INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES;

7 [(2)] (II) Ensure that staff provide assistance to patients who have
8 requested assistance in making complaints about sexual abuse or sexual harassment;

9 [(3)] (III) Develop and oversee training for staff on how to identify and
10 prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment, how to respond to complaints, and how to
11 support victims in an appropriate manner; and

12 [(4)] (IV) Develop and oversee patient education on identifying sexual
13 abuse and sexual harassment and on reporting incidents of sexual abuse and sexual
14 harassment.

15 (2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE POLICIES AND
16 PROCEDURES DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
17 SUBSECTION ARE UNIFORM FOR STATE FACILITIES.

18 (g) The Administration shall develop and implement a plan to secure the sleeping
19 quarters of male and female patients at all State facilities that maximizes the use of
20 available resources and infrastructure.

21 (h) Each [State facility] FACILITY THAT IS A LICENSED RESIDENTIAL
22 TREATMENT CENTER, A STATE FACILITY, OR A HOSPITAL WITH A SEPARATELY
23 IDENTIFIED INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE shall, FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING
24 TREATMENT IN THE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER OR RECEIVING INPATIENT
25 PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES:

26 (1) Use evidence-based screening tools to identify on admission a patient's
27 risk of being a victim of sexual or physical abuse, or being a sexual or physical abuser, and
28 shall consider the assessment of risk in making any unit and room assignment;

29 (2) **ADOPT A WRITTEN PROTECTION PLAN AS PART OF A PATIENT'S**
30 **TREATMENT PLAN, AS IF WARRANTED BY THE PATIENT'S RISK OF BEING A VICTIM**
31 **OF SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OR BEING A SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSER;**

32 (3) [Reassign] **IF POSSIBLE, REASSIGN** any patient accused of sexual
33 assault promptly to another unit and ensure that any alleged victim and the alleged
34 assailant are not housed in the same unit;

1 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Provide a patient who has a history of sexual trauma with
2 treatment and education that is evidence-based or reflective of best practices to reduce the
3 likelihood of the patient being the victim of repeated sexual abuse; and

4 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) Ensure that designated clinical staff are trained in at least one
5 trauma recovery modality that is considered to be a best practice.

6 (I) **THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY SHALL ENFORCE THIS**
7 **SECTION.**

8 (J) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
9 **SECTION.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.