
By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Morhaim, A. Jones, and Burns**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Licensing and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes**
3 **for Children**

4 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force on the Licensing and Monitoring of
5 Community-Based Homes for Children to review and evaluate State programs
6 for the licensing and monitoring of residential child care facilities; providing for
7 the appointment, chairmanship, and membership of the Task Force; requiring
8 members to be appointed by a certain date; requiring the Task Force to study
9 and evaluate certain processes, requirements, issues, and practices; requiring
10 the Task Force to evaluate whether a single interagency authority should
11 license and monitor residential child care facilities; requiring the Task Force to
12 make recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or
13 before a certain date; providing for the staff of the Task Force; providing for the
14 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force on the Licensing
15 and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes for Children.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Task Force on the Licensing and Monitoring of
19 Community-Based Homes for Children.

20 (b) The Task Force shall have 13 members.

21 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

22 (1) the Special Secretary for the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,
23 and Families, who shall serve as the chair of the Task Force;

24 (2) the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources;

25 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice;

26 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

27 (5) the Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education;

1 (6) a member of the Maryland Senate, appointed by the President of the
2 Senate;

3 (7) a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the
4 Speaker of the House; and

5 (8) the following individuals, appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) an expert in best practices related to the licensing and
7 monitoring of children's residential facilities;

8 (ii) a child resident or former child resident of a licensed residential
9 child care facility;

10 (iii) an advocate for children recommended by Advocates for
11 Children and Youth;

12 (iv) a representative of licensed providers of residential care
13 recommended by the Maryland Association of Residential Facilities for Youths;

14 (v) a representative of a community association; and

15 (vi) a representative of Developmental Disabilities Administration.

16 (d) The members of the Task Force shall be appointed on or before July 1,
17 2000.

18 (e) (1) The Task Force shall evaluate the licensing and monitoring of
19 residential child care programs licensed by the departments of Human Resources,
20 Juvenile Justice, and Health and Mental Hygiene.

21 (2) In conducting its evaluation, the Task Force may:

22 (i) conduct site visits to residential child care facilities around the
23 State;

24 (ii) visit the licensing and monitoring programs at the three
25 departments;

26 (iii) hold at least two public hearings at locations around the State:

27 1. at least one of which shall be in Annapolis; and

28 2. at least one of which shall be in Baltimore; and

29 (iv) accept public comment.

30 (f) The Task Force shall:

31 (1) evaluate the process and requirements for licensing residential child
32 care facilities;

1 (2) evaluate the frequency and adequacy of the process and procedures
2 used for monitoring residential child care facilities;

3 (3) research and evaluate best practices in the licensing and monitoring
4 of residential child care facilities;

5 (4) evaluate the feasibility of creating a single interagency authority to
6 license and monitor all residential child care facilities; and

7 (5) determine the most appropriate means for eliciting and responding to
8 citizen concerns about licensed residential child care facilities.

9 (g) On or before December 1, 2000, the Task Force shall make
10 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to 2-1246 of the State Government
11 Article, the General Assembly, for improving the licensing and monitoring of
12 residential child care facilities and for eliciting and responding to citizen concerns
13 about the facilities.

14 (h) The Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families, with the
15 assistance of the Department of Legislative Services, shall provide staff support for
16 the Task Force.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 June 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
19 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.