

HOUSE BILL 1222

J1, D4

71r2539

By: **Delegates Montgomery, Benson, Dumais, Hecht, Hubbard, N. King, Kipke, Kramer, Kullen, Lawton, Lee, Mizeur, Oaks, and Pena-Melnyk**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2007

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the purposes of the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of
4 Excellence Initiative; expanding the duties of the Centers of Excellence faculty;
5 altering certain definitions; and generally relating to the Child Abuse and
6 Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health – General
9 Section 13–2201 through 13–2203
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 13–2201.

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

17 (b) “Center of Excellence” means a local or regional multidisciplinary
18 **CLINICAL** team of health care professionals and health care facilities with the
19 expertise to diagnose and treat child abuse and neglect.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) “Centers of Excellence faculty” means a core group of clinical experts, as
2 designated by the Department, who provide training, consultation, and support for the
3 diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect to health care professionals **AND**
4 **CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS.**

5 (d) “Child advocacy center” means [an] **A CHILD-FOCUSED** entity within or
6 outside a health care facility that [diagnoses] **INVESTIGATES, DIAGNOSES,** and
7 treats child abuse and neglect **AND INCLUDES LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL,**
8 **LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES CASEWORKERS, CHILD MENTAL**
9 **HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND OTHER CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE**
10 **PROVIDERS.**

11 (e) “Initiative” means the Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence
12 Initiative.

13 (f) “Multidisciplinary **CLINICAL** team” means a group of professionals with
14 expertise in various health care and social service professional disciplines who provide
15 consultation, treatment, and planning in cases of child abuse and neglect.

16 13–2202.

17 (a) There is a Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative in the
18 Department.

19 (b) The purposes of the Initiative are:

20 (1) To improve the protection of children in the State;

21 (2) To recruit local physicians to gain clinical expertise in the
22 diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

23 (3) To develop and guide the practice of local or regional
24 multidisciplinary teams to improve the assessment and treatment of children who are
25 the subject of a child abuse or neglect investigation or a child in need of assistance;

26 (4) To facilitate the appropriate prosecution of criminal child abuse
27 and neglect; [and]

28 (5) To provide expert consultation and training to local or regional
29 multidisciplinary teams in the diagnosis and treatment of physical child abuse and
30 neglect and sexual abuse through teleconferencing and on-site services; **AND**

1 **(6) TO COOPERATE WITH CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS TO:**

2 **(I) PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TRAUMA DURING A CHILD**
3 **ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION;**

4 **(II) MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF TIMES EACH CHILD IS**
5 **INTERVIEWED AND EXAMINED DURING A CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT**
6 **INVESTIGATION; AND**

7 **(III) MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR INFLUENCING A CHILD'S**
8 **STATEMENT TO INVESTIGATORS ABOUT THE ALLEGED ABUSE OR NEGLECT.**

9 13-2203.

10 The Centers of Excellence faculty shall:

11 (1) Assist local and regional jurisdictions to develop standards and
12 protocols for the composition and operation of local or regional Centers of Excellence;

13 (2) Provide training and consultation to local or regional Centers of
14 Excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

15 (3) Inventory existing academic and emergency resources available for
16 teleconferencing and facilitate the use of these resources for child abuse and neglect
17 investigations and treatment plans; [and]

18 (4) Provide financial support to part-time local and regional expert
19 clinic staff for the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

20 **(5) COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE ACTIVITIES WITH CHILD**
21 **ADVOCACY CENTERS; AND**

22 **(6) COMMUNICATE AND COOPERATE WITH THE STATE COUNCIL**
23 **ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT UNDER TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 7A OF THE FAMILY**
24 **LAW ARTICLE.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2007.