

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 387

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Definition” and substitute “Certification – Implementation Plan”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 3 down through “term;” in line 6 and substitute “requiring the Governor’s Office for Children to establish a workgroup composed of certain representatives to develop a plan for implementation of the certification; requiring the workgroup to take certain items into consideration in developing the plan; requiring the plan to specify a certain rate adjustment and certain recommendations; requiring the Office to report on the workgroup’s implementation plan to the Governor and certain legislative committees on or before a certain date;”; in line 7, after “to” insert “certification of”; in line 8, strike “with” and substitute “without”; and in line 10, strike “20-101” and substitute “20-301(b)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 1 through line 15 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“20-301.

(b) On or before October 1, 2015, an individual shall receive a certificate from the Board before the individual may be a residential child and youth care practitioner in this State.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Governor’s Office for Children shall establish a workgroup composed of representatives of the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Interagency

(Over)

Rates Committee, residential child care programs, the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth, and other interested persons to:

(1) determine whether it is feasible to implement the certification of residential child and youth care practitioners in 2015; and

(2) develop a plan for implementation of the certification of residential child and youth care practitioners.

(b) In determining the feasibility of implementing certification in 2015 and in developing the implementation plan, the workgroup shall take into consideration:

(1) the costs of implementing certification, including:

(i) the costs to residential child care programs of hiring and retaining residential child and youth care practitioners who meet the certification requirements;

(ii) other costs incurred by residential child care programs to meet the certification requirements; and

(iii) any additional costs to the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals to meet the implementation date;

(2) any savings, that residential child care programs might realize from certification to offset their costs, such as potential savings from reduced staff turnover;

(3) efficient ways to reduce additional costs, such as “train the trainer” programs and common evaluation tools;

(4) the impact of additional costs, net of any savings and efficiencies, to residential care programs on rates established by the Interagency Rates Committee; and

(5) any additional funding sources, separate from the rates established by the Interagency Rates Committee, that may be available to support the additional costs.

(c) The implementation plan shall specify:

(1) the adjustment in rates needed to support the additional costs of certification;

(2) recommendations for addressing the needed rate increase in the State budget; and

(3) a recommendation for an alternate date for implementation of certification if the workgroup determines that it is not feasible to implement certification in 2015.

(d) On or before September 1, 2011, the Governor's Office for Children shall report on the workgroup's implementation plan to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the rates established for residential child care programs by the Interagency Rates Committee reflect any adjustment, specified in the plan required under Section 2 of this Act, needed to support the additional costs of certification of residential child and youth care practitioners."

(Over)

On page 3, in line 16, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in line 17, strike “October” and substitute “June”.