

Chapter 78

(Senate Bill 785)

AN ACT concerning

Foster Youth Summer Internship Program

FOR the purpose of recodifying and making permanent the Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program; altering the name of the program to be the Foster Youth Summer Internship Program; transferring certain responsibilities relating to the Program to the Secretary of Human Services; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of Budget and Management, to issue a certain report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; specifying the contents of the report; defining certain terms; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to internship opportunities for certain foster youth.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 3–207
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Chapter 317 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013
Section 2

BY adding to
Article – Human Services
Section 4–304
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – State Finance and Procurement

3–207.

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

(2) “Foster youth” means an individual who:

(i) is in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State; or

(ii) 1. is an adult under the age of 26 years; and

2. was in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State on the individual's 18th birthday.

(3) "Program" means the Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program established under this section.

(b) The Secretary shall:

(1) develop and implement a Foster Youth Summer Internship Pilot Program with the assistance of the Secretary of Human Resources and in consultation with the local directors of local departments of social services; and

(2) coordinate with State agencies to establish internships in State agencies that are open to participants in the Program.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to provide foster youth with training and experience through internships in agencies within the Executive Branch of State government.

(d) The Program shall be established in multiple regions of the State.

(e) Internships under the Program may be paid or unpaid.

(f) A State agency participating in the Program may:

(1) specify requirements for internship applicants; and

(2) select its interns from among the available applicants.

(g) To be eligible to participate in an internship under the Program, an individual must be a foster youth at least 15 years old.

(h) On or before October 31, 2015, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Human Resources, shall report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on:

(1) the number of foster youth participating in the Program;

(2) the location and type of internships in the Program;

(3) efforts to recruit eligible individuals to participate in the Program; and

- (4) factors that affect Program participation.

Chapter 317 of the Acts of 2013

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of December 31, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Article – Human Services

4-304.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “FOSTER YOUTH” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(I) IS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE; OR

(II) 1. IS AN ADULT UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS; AND

2. WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE ON THE INDIVIDUAL’S 18TH BIRTHDAY.

(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE FOSTER YOUTH SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) THE SECRETARY SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A FOSTER YOUTH SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL DIRECTORS OF LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES; AND

(2) COORDINATE WITH STATE AGENCIES TO ESTABLISH INTERNSHIPS IN STATE AGENCIES THAT ARE OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FOSTER YOUTH WITH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE THROUGH INTERNSHIPS IN AGENCIES WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

(D) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN MULTIPLE REGIONS OF THE STATE.

(E) INTERNSHIPS UNDER THE PROGRAM MAY BE PAID OR UNPAID.

(F) A STATE AGENCY PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM MAY:

(1) SPECIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICANTS; AND

(2) SELECT ITS INTERNS FROM AMONG THE AVAILABLE APPLICANTS.

(G) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST BE A FOSTER YOUTH AT LEAST 15 YEARS OLD.

(H) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2019, THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

(1) THE NUMBER OF FOSTER YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM;

(2) THE LOCATION AND TYPE OF INTERNSHIPS IN THE PROGRAM;

(3) EFFORTS TO RECRUIT ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND

(4) FACTORS THAT AFFECT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.