

HOUSE BILL 492

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D4

1999 Regular Session
9r1758
CF 9r1759

By: **Delegates Shriver, Taylor, Hurson, Heller, Hixson, and Franchot**
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1999
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Children and Youth**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Joint Committee on Children and Youth; specifying the
4 membership and tenure of the Committee; providing for the appointment of
5 cochairmen of the Committee; establishing that the full authorized membership
6 of the Committee is a quorum; providing staff for the Committee; requiring the
7 Committee to hold certain meetings; authorizing the Committee to hold certain
8 hearings and consider certain votes on certain bills or resolutions; establishing
9 the powers and duties of the Committee; requiring the Committee to submit a
10 certain report by a certain date each year; defining a certain term; and generally
11 relating to the Joint Committee on Children and Youth.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - State Government
14 Section 2-10A-06
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, The Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families has
19 identified the following key conditions of well-being for Maryland children and youth:
20 babies born healthy, healthy children, children entering school ready to learn,
21 children successful in school, children completing school, children safe in their
22 families and communities, stable and economically independent families, and
23 communities that support family life; and

24 WHEREAS, Maryland's overall ranking on key indicators for children and youth
25 by the Maryland Kids Count Partnership continues to be very low relative to other
26 states; and

27 WHEREAS, Many factors affecting the conditions of well-being for Maryland
28 children and youth involve the work of many different existing committees of the
29 Senate and the House; and

1 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children and Youth will provide an
2 integrated focus on factors affecting the health, education, safety, and economic
3 well-being of Maryland children and youth; and

4 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children and Youth can facilitate the work of
5 existing committees of the Senate and the House; and

6 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children and Youth can help the General
7 Assembly provide a result-oriented focus on the well-being of Maryland children and
8 youth; and

9 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children and Youth can recommend changes
10 in law and budgeting that can improve key indicators for Maryland children and
11 youth; now, therefore,

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

14 **Article - State Government**

15 2-10A-06.

16 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING" MEANS THE DESIRED
17 RESULTS IDENTIFIED BY THE MARYLAND PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH,
18 AND FAMILIES BASED UPON IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND USED TO IMPROVE QUALITY.

19 (B) THERE IS A JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

20 (C) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 20 MEMBERS:

21 (1) FROM THE SENATE:

22 (I) THE MAJORITY LEADER;

23 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER; AND

24 (III) EIGHT OTHER SENATORS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
25 FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH
26 ISSUES AFFECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH; AND

27 (2) FROM THE HOUSE:

28 (I) THE MAJORITY LEADER;

29 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER; AND

30 (III) EIGHT OTHER DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER FROM
31 AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH ISSUES
32 AFFECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

1 (D) (1) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED ON THE BASIS
2 OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY AND INTEREST CONCERNING ISSUES AFFECTING
3 CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

4 (2) IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER
5 SHALL PROVIDE FOR REPRESENTATION FROM:

6 (I) THE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH ISSUES AFFECTING
7 CHILDREN AND YOUTH; AND

8 (II) THE MAJOR AREAS OF THE STATE.

9 (E) (1) MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED AFTER THE TWO HOUSES AND
10 THEIR COMMITTEES ORGANIZE DURING EACH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY AND SHALL SERVE UNTIL THE HOUSES AND COMMITTEES ORGANIZE
12 DURING THE FOLLOWING REGULAR SESSION.

13 (2) (I) IF A VACANCY OCCURS AMONG THE SENATORS ON THE
14 COMMITTEE, A SUCCESSOR PROMPTLY SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

15 (II) IF A VACANCY OCCURS AMONG THE DELEGATES ON THE
16 COMMITTEE, A SUCCESSOR PROMPTLY SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER.

17 (F) (1) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, THE
18 PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT A SENATOR TO SERVE AS THE SENATE CHAIRMAN OF
19 THE COMMITTEE AND THE SPEAKER SHALL APPOINT A DELEGATE TO SERVE AS THE
20 HOUSE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

21 (2) THE SENATE CHAIRMAN AND THE HOUSE CHAIRMAN SHALL
22 ALTERNATE ANNUALLY AS PRESIDING CHAIRMAN AND COCHAIRMAN OF THE
23 COMMITTEE.

24 (G) A MAJORITY OF THE FULL AUTHORIZED MEMBERSHIP OF THE
25 COMMITTEE IS A QUORUM.

26 (H) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES, OFFICE OF POLICY
27 ANALYSIS, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE.

28 (I) THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD:

29 (1) AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROMPTLY AFTER THE
30 APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; AND

31 (2) ANY OTHER MEETINGS THAT THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS
32 NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES EFFICIENTLY.

33 (J) THE COMMITTEE MAY:

34 (1) HOLD A HEARING ON ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE FUNCTIONS OF
35 THE COMMITTEE; AND

1 (2) CONSIDER A VOTE ON A BILL OR RESOLUTION REFERRED TO IT BY
2 THE PRESIDENT OR THE SPEAKER.

3 (K) IN ADDITION TO ANY POWERS AND DUTIES SET FORTH ELSEWHERE, IN AN
4 ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR MARYLAND CHILDREN
5 AND YOUTH, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

6 (1) INVESTIGATE THE PROBLEMS THAT JEOPARDIZE THE WELL-BEING
7 OF MARYLAND CHILDREN AND YOUTH;

8 (2) IDENTIFY STATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS THAT, IN CONJUNCTION
9 WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS AND IN SUPPORT OF FAMILIES AND
10 COMMUNITIES, CAN WORK TO ACHIEVE CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR
11 MARYLAND CHILDREN AND YOUTH;

12 (3) REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALIGN STATE
13 STATUTES, REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES
14 WITH THE STATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
15 SUBSECTION;

16 (4) SEARCH FOR ANY INTERDEPARTMENTAL GAPS, INCONSISTENCIES,
17 AND INEFFICIENCIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OR ATTAINMENT OF THE STATE
18 POLICIES AND ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

19 (5) IDENTIFY ANY NEW LAWS, REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES,
20 AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES THAT ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE AND PROMOTE
21 DESIRED CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR MARYLAND CHILDREN AND YOUTH;

22 (6) SERVE AS AN INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE SENATE AND
23 THE HOUSE ON LEGISLATIVE POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING CHILDREN AND
24 YOUTH; AND

25 (7) PERFORM OTHER ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING PUBLIC
26 AWARENESS OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF MARYLAND CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

27 (L) (1) SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THIS TITLE, THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT
28 AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF
29 EACH YEAR.

30 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

31 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE; AND

32 (II) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 1999.