

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 17, 1999

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Children ~~and Youth~~, Youth, and Families**

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

13 BY adding to
14 Article - State Government
15 Section 2-10A-06
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

18 Preamble

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

1 WHEREAS, Maryland's overall ranking on key indicators for children ~~and~~
 2 ~~youth, youth, and families~~ by the Maryland Kids Count Partnership continues to be
 3 very low relative to other states; and

4 WHEREAS, Many factors affecting the conditions of well-being for Maryland
 5 children ~~and youth, youth, and families~~ involve the work of many different existing
 6 committees of the Senate and the House; and

7 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children ~~and Youth, Youth, and Families~~ will
 8 provide an integrated focus on factors affecting the health, education, safety, and
 9 economic well-being of Maryland children ~~and youth, youth, and families~~; and

10 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children ~~and Youth, Youth, and Families~~ can
 11 facilitate the work of existing committees of the Senate and the House; and

12 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children ~~and Youth, Youth, and Families~~ can
 13 help the General Assembly provide a result-oriented focus on the well-being of
 14 Maryland children ~~and youth, youth, and families~~; and

15 WHEREAS, A Joint Committee on Children ~~and Youth, Youth, and Families~~ can
 16 recommend changes in law and budgeting that can improve key indicators for
 17 Maryland children ~~and youth, youth, and families~~; now, therefore,

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

20

Article - State Government

21 2-10A-06.

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

25 (B) THERE IS A JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH, YOUTH, AND~~
 26 FAMILIES.

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

28 (1) FROM THE SENATE:

29 (I) THE MAJORITY LEADER;

30 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER; AND

31 ~~(III) EIGHT OTHER SENATORS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT~~
 32 ~~FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH~~
 33 ~~ISSUES AFFECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH; AND~~

1 (III) TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR STANDING
2 COMMITTEES; AND

3 (2) FROM THE HOUSE:

4 (I) THE MAJORITY LEADER;

5 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER; AND

6 (III) EIGHT OTHER DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER FROM
7 AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH ISSUES
8 AFFECTING CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH~~, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

9 (D) (1) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED ON THE BASIS
10 OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY AND INTEREST CONCERNING ISSUES AFFECTING
11 CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH~~, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

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

14 (I) THE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH ISSUES AFFECTING
15 CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH~~, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES; AND

16 (II) THE MAJOR AREAS OF THE STATE.

17 (E) (1) ~~MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED AFTER THE TWO HOUSES AND~~
18 ~~THEIR COMMITTEES ORGANIZE DURING EACH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL~~
19 ~~ASSEMBLY AND SHALL SERVE UNTIL THE HOUSES AND COMMITTEES ORGANIZE~~
20 ~~DURING THE FOLLOWING REGULAR SESSION~~

21 (I) A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT SERVES AT THE
22 PLEASURE OF THE PRESIDENT.

23 (II) A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER SERVES AT THE
24 PLEASURE OF THE SPEAKER.

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

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

29 (F) (1) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, THE
30 PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT A SENATOR TO SERVE AS THE SENATE CHAIRMAN OF
31 THE COMMITTEE AND THE SPEAKER SHALL APPOINT A DELEGATE TO SERVE AS THE
32 HOUSE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

33 (2) THE SENATE CHAIRMAN AND THE HOUSE CHAIRMAN SHALL
34 ALTERNATE ANNUALLY AS PRESIDING CHAIRMAN AND COCHAIRMAN OF THE
35 COMMITTEE.

1 (G) A MAJORITY OF THE FULL AUTHORIZED MEMBERSHIP OF THE
2 COMMITTEE IS A QUORUM.

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

5 (I) THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD:

6 (1) AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROMPTLY AFTER THE
7 APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; AND

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

10 (J) THE COMMITTEE MAY:

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

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

15 (K) IN ADDITION TO ANY POWERS AND DUTIES SET FORTH ELSEWHERE, IN AN
16 ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR MARYLAND CHILDREN
17 ~~AND YOUTH, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES~~, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

18 (1) INVESTIGATE THE PROBLEMS THAT JEOPARDIZE THE WELL-BEING
19 OF MARYLAND CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES~~;

20 (2) IDENTIFY STATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS THAT, IN CONJUNCTION
21 WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS AND IN SUPPORT OF FAMILIES AND
22 COMMUNITIES, CAN WORK TO ACHIEVE CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR
23 MARYLAND CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES~~;

24 (3) REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALIGN STATE
25 STATUTES, REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES
26 WITH THE STATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
27 SUBSECTION;

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

31 (5) IDENTIFY ANY NEW LAWS, REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES,
32 AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES THAT ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE AND PROMOTE
33 DESIRED CONDITIONS OF WELL-BEING FOR MARYLAND CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH,~~
34 YOUTH, AND FAMILIES;

1 (6) SERVE AS AN INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE SENATE AND
2 THE HOUSE ON LEGISLATIVE POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING CHILDREN ~~AND~~
3 YOUTH, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES; AND

4 (7) PERFORM OTHER ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING PUBLIC
5 AWARENESS OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF MARYLAND CHILDREN ~~AND YOUTH~~, YOUTH,
6 AND FAMILIES.

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

10 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

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

12 (II) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 ~~October 1, 1999~~ June 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at
15 the end of May 31, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
16 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.