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By: **Delegate Franchot**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse and Neglect Center of Excellence Technology Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Child Abuse and Neglect Center of Excellence  
4 Technology Initiative in the Department of Human Resources to provide for  
5 interdisciplinary consultation to improve the assessment and treatment of  
6 abused and neglected children and children in need of assistance; providing for  
7 the membership, administration, duties, authority, and funding of the Initiative;  
8 requiring the Department of Human Resources to establish an Intranet access  
9 to the Initiative; defining certain terms; requiring the Initiative to annually  
10 report to the Governor and the General Assembly; requiring each unit of State  
11 government or of a local government to cooperate with the Initiative in a certain  
12 manner; and generally relating to the Child Abuse and Neglect Center of  
13 Excellence Technology Initiative.

14 BY adding to

15 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources  
16 Section 90 through 102, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Child Abuse and  
17 Neglect Center of Excellence Technology Initiative"  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1998 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article 88A - Department of Human Resources**

23 **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**

24 90.

25 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
26 INDICATED.

27 (B) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

1 (C) "CENTER OF EXCELLENCE" MEANS THE STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE  
2 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.

3 91.

4 THERE IS A CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
5 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

6 92.

7 THE PURPOSES OF THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ARE:

8 (1) TO IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN;

9 (2) TO GUIDE AND DEVELOP THE INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE OF  
10 LOCAL TEAMS TO IMPROVE THE ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF A CHILD WHO IS  
11 THE SUBJECT OF A CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATION OR A CHILD WHO IS A  
12 CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE (CINA);

13 (3) TO FACILITATE THE APPROPRIATE PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL  
14 ABUSE AND NEGLECT;

15 (4) TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY  
16 RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR ENHANCING THE LIKELIHOOD THAT  
17 CHILDREN CAN SAFELY REMAIN WITH OR BE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES OR  
18 PLACED IN STABLE AND PERMANENT ALTERNATIVE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS  
19 WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY; AND

20 (5) TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON EXISTING  
21 AND NEEDED TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES, TRAINING, AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL  
22 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS AND ANNUALLY, PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE  
23 DEPARTMENT BUDGET, TO RECOMMEND EXPENDITURES REQUIRED AND  
24 RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

25 93.

26 THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

27 (1) SEVEN REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH  
28 EXPERTISE IN THE DIAGNOSIS, OR PROSECUTION, OR TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE  
29 AND NEGLECT:

30 (I) ONE PEDIATRICIAN;

31 (II) THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROFESSIONAL MENTAL  
32 HEALTH COMMUNITY, ONE WITH EXPERTISE IN CHILDREN, ONE WITH EXPERTISE IN  
33 ADULTS, AND ONE WITH EXPERTISE IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE;

34 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH  
35 EXPERTISE IN THE PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT;

1 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERTISE IN FAMILY VIOLENCE  
2 ISSUES;

3 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRIVATE SOCIAL SERVICE  
4 AGENCY;

5 (2) ONE JUDGE OR MASTER APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE  
6 MARYLAND COURT OF APPEALS;

7 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES, DESIGNATED  
8 BY THE SECRETARY OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

9 (I) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

10 (II) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;

11 (III) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES;

12 (IV) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE;

13 (V) THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION;

14 (VI) THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, DIVISION  
15 OF PAROLE AND PROBATION;

16 (4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK;

17 (5) TWO CHILD ADVOCATES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

18 (6) EXPERTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TELEMEDICINE,  
19 COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FORENSICS, CHILDREN, AND  
20 FAMILIES, INVITED BY THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE TO PARTICIPATE AS NEEDED.

21 94.

22 (A) THE TERM OF A MEMBER APPOINTED SHALL BE 3 YEARS.

23 (B) AT THE END OF A TERM THE MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A  
24 SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

25 (C) A MEMBER APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE  
26 REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

27 95.

28 (A) THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL ANNUALLY ELECT A CHAIRMAN.

29 (B) THE MANNER OF THE ELECTION SHALL BE AS THE CENTER OF  
30 EXCELLENCE DETERMINES.

31 (C) EIGHT MEMBERS CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

1 96.

2 A MEMBER OF THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

3 (1) MAY RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR MEETINGS, TESTIMONY, AND  
4 CASE CONSULTATION FOR TIME SPENT BY A MEMBER OF MORE THAN 1 1/2 DAYS PER  
5 MONTH AS THE DEPARTMENT BUDGET ALLOWS; AND

6 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
7 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

8 97.

9 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

10 (1) FUNDING FROM THE STATE BUDGET; AND

11 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL SUPPORT.

12 98.

13 THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE MAY RECEIVE INFORMATION AND CONSULT ON  
14 ANY CASE IN THE CHILDREN IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND RECEIVE ANY  
15 INFORMATION ON ANY CHILD COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OR A LOCAL  
16 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR ANY CHILD WHO IS SUBJECT TO A CHILD  
17 ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATION.

18 99.

19 THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL:

20 (1) ASSIST LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO DEVELOP STANDARDS AND  
21 PROTOCOLS FOR THE COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF LOCAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
22 TEAMS AND FOR GATHERING INFORMATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS;

23 (2) ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL OR  
24 REGIONAL TEAMS AND THE COLLABORATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES;

25 (3) INVENTORY EXISTING ACADEMIC AND EMERGENCY RESOURCES  
26 AVAILABLE FOR TELEMEDICINE AND FACILITATE THEIR USE FOR CHILD ABUSE AND  
27 NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS AND TREATMENT PLANS;

28 (4) INVESTIGATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACQUISITION TO  
29 THE DEPARTMENT FOR HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND NEW TECHNOLOGY TO  
30 FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND THE  
31 LOCAL AND REGIONAL TEAMS; AND

32 (5) EDUCATE LOCAL PROVIDERS AND LOCAL AND REGIONAL TEAM  
33 MEMBERS OF THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL, PERSONNEL, AND  
34 OTHER RESOURCES.

1 100.

2 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

3 (1) PROVIDE FUNDING TO ESTABLISH BY FISCAL YEAR 2001, A SECURE  
4 INTRANET FOR DISSEMINATION OF TRAINING MATERIALS, POLICIES, AND  
5 PROTOCOLS AND FOR CASE CONSULTATION; AND

6 (2) RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE INTRANET TO LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF  
7 SOCIAL SERVICES' PERSONNEL, MEMBERS OF PANELS ESTABLISHED BY THE CENTER  
8 OF EXCELLENCE, OFFICERS OF THE COURT, AND PERSONS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED  
9 WITH THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

10 101.

11 ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
12 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE  
13 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN ANNUAL REPORT  
14 SUMMARIZING THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE'S ACTIVITIES AND  
15 RECOMMENDATIONS.

16 102.

17 EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT OR OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL  
18 COOPERATE WITH THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN THE DISCHARGE OF ITS POWERS  
19 AND DUTIES INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
20 PURPOSES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

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