

SENATE BILL 516

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1999 Regular Session
9r1759
CF 9r1758

By: **Senators Hoffman, Lawlah, Hogan, Kasemeyer, Neall, DeGrange, and
Van Hollen**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 10, 1999

CHAPTER _____

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; providing for
11 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Joint Committee on
12 Children and Youth.

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 babies born healthy, healthy children, children entering school ready to learn,
22 children successful in school, children completing school, children safe in their

1 families and communities, stable and economically independent families, and
2 communities that support family life; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **Article - State Government**

23 2-10A-06.

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

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

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

29 (1) FROM THE SENATE:

30 (I) THE MAJORITY LEADER;

31 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER; AND

32 ~~(III) EIGHT OTHER SENATORS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT~~
33 ~~FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH~~
34 ~~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.

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.

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

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

25 (F) (1) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, THE
26 PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT A SENATOR TO SERVE AS THE SENATE CHAIRMAN OF
27 THE COMMITTEE AND THE SPEAKER SHALL APPOINT A DELEGATE TO SERVE AS THE
28 HOUSE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

29 (2) THE SENATE CHAIRMAN AND THE HOUSE CHAIRMAN SHALL
30 ALTERNATE ANNUALLY AS PRESIDING CHAIRMAN AND COCHAIRMAN OF THE
31 COMMITTEE.

32 (G) A MAJORITY OF THE FULL AUTHORIZED MEMBERSHIP OF THE
33 COMMITTEE IS A QUORUM.

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

1 (I) THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD:

2 (1) AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROMPTLY AFTER THE
3 APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; AND

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

6 (J) THE COMMITTEE MAY:

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

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

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

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

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

20 (3) REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALIGN STATE
21 STATUTES, REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES
22 WITH THE STATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
23 SUBSECTION;

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

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

30 (6) SERVE AS AN INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE SENATE AND
31 THE HOUSE ON LEGISLATIVE POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING CHILDREN AND
32 YOUTH; AND

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

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

4 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

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

6 (II) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of
9 September 30, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
10 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.