

SENATE BILL 394

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Kelley, Roesser, Frosh, Hogan, Bromwell, Hollinger,
Teitelbaum, Blount, Hoffman, Lawlah, Collins, McFadden, DeGrange,
Kasemeyer, Mitchell, Jimeno, and Van Hollen**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2000
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 21, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Licensing and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes**
3 **for Children**

4 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force on the Licensing and Monitoring of
5 Community-Based Homes for Children to review and evaluate State programs
6 for the licensing and monitoring of residential child care facilities; providing for
7 the appointment, chairmanship, and membership of the Task Force; requiring
8 members to be appointed by a certain date; requiring the Task Force to study
9 and evaluate certain processes, requirements, issues, and practices; requiring
10 the Task Force to evaluate whether a single interagency authority should
11 license and monitor residential child care facilities; requiring the Task Force to
12 make recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or
13 before a certain date; providing for the staff of the Task Force; providing for the
14 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a Task Force on the Licensing
15 and Monitoring of Community-Based Homes for Children.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Task Force on the Licensing and Monitoring of
19 Community-Based Homes for Children.

20 (b) The Task Force shall have ~~13~~ 15 members.

21 (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- 1 (1) the Special Secretary for the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,
2 and Families, who shall serve as the chair of the Task Force;
- 3 (2) the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources;
- 4 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- 5 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- 6 (5) the Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education;
- 7 (6) the Director of the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities;
- 8 ~~(6)~~ (7) a member of the Maryland Senate, appointed by the President
9 of the Senate;
- 10 ~~(7)~~ (8) a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the
11 Speaker of the House; and
- 12 ~~(8)~~ (9) the following individuals, appointed by the Governor:
- 13 (i) an expert in best practices related to the licensing and
14 monitoring of children's residential facilities;
- 15 (ii) a child resident or former child resident of a licensed residential
16 child care facility;
- 17 (iii) an advocate for children recommended by Advocates for
18 Children and Youth;
- 19 (iv) a representative of licensed providers of residential care
20 recommended by the Maryland Association of Residential Facilities for Youths;
- 21 (v) a representative of a community association; ~~and~~
- 22 (vi) a representative of the Developmental Disabilities
23 Administration; and
- 24 (vii) a representative from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,
25 and Families.
- 26 (d) The members of the Task Force shall be appointed on or before July 1,
27 2000.
- 28 (e) (1) The Task Force shall evaluate the licensing and monitoring of
29 residential child care programs licensed by the departments of Human Resources,
30 Juvenile Justice, and Health and Mental Hygiene.
- 31 (2) In conducting its evaluation, the Task Force may:

- 1 (i) conduct site visits to residential child care facilities around the
2 State;
- 3 (ii) visit the licensing and monitoring programs at the three
4 departments;
- 5 (iii) hold at least two public hearings at locations around the State:
6 1. at least one of which shall be in Annapolis; and
7 2. at least one of which shall be in Baltimore; and
8 (iv) accept public comment.
- 9 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 10 (1) evaluate the process and requirements for licensing residential child
11 care facilities;
- 12 (2) evaluate the frequency and adequacy of the process and procedures
13 used for monitoring residential child care facilities;
- 14 (3) research and evaluate best practices in the licensing and monitoring
15 of residential child care facilities;
- 16 (4) evaluate the feasibility of creating a single interagency authority to
17 license and monitor all residential child care facilities; and
- 18 (5) determine the most appropriate means for eliciting and responding to
19 citizen concerns about licensed residential child care facilities.
- 20 (g) On or before December 1, 2000, the Task Force shall make
21 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to 2-1246 of the State Government
22 Article, the General Assembly, for improving the licensing and monitoring of
23 residential child care facilities and for eliciting and responding to citizen concerns
24 about the facilities.
- 25 (h) The Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families, ~~with the~~
26 ~~assistance of the Department of Legislative Services,~~ shall provide staff support for
27 the Task Force.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 June 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
30 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
31 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

