

HOUSE BILL 513

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2001 Regular Session
11r1516
CF 11r2197

By: **Delegates Goldwater, Kopp, Bronrott, and James**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001
Assigned to: Appropriations
Reassigned: Environmental Matters, February 8, 2001

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 16, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council of Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating
4 Council of Maryland; providing for the purpose of the Council; providing for the
5 composition of the Council and the appointment, compensation, and terms of
6 Council members; requiring the Department of Human Resources to provide
7 certain staff support to the Council; requiring the Council to gather certain
8 information from caregivers through certain methods; requiring the Council to
9 develop and distribute a handbook of certain caregiver services; requiring the
10 Council to review certain caregiver support programs; requiring the Council to
11 develop a model caregiver support program; requiring the Council to coordinate
12 activities of certain caregiver services; requiring the Council to conduct certain
13 research; requiring the Council to report to the General Assembly and the
14 Governor on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland
15 Caregivers Support Coordinating Council.

16 BY adding to
17 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
18 Section 129A
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

21 Preamble

22 WHEREAS, Respite is the occasional, short-term, temporary relief or rest for
23 family caregivers who provide care for children or adults with developmental

1 disabilities, functional disabilities, challenging behaviors, and age related disorders
2 and diseases; and

3 WHEREAS, Supporting the efforts of families and caregivers to care for
4 individuals with special needs at home is efficient, cost effective, and humane; and

5 WHEREAS, Families receiving occasional caregiver support services are less
6 likely to request institutional care at public expense for an individual with special
7 needs; and

8 WHEREAS, Caregiver support services reduce family and caregiver stress,
9 enhance family and caregiver coping ability, and strengthen family ability to meet the
10 challenging demands of caring for individuals with special needs; and

11 WHEREAS, Caregiver support services reduce the risk of abuse and neglect of
12 children, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups; and

13 WHEREAS, Coordinated, noncategorical caregiver support services must be
14 available locally to provide reliable short-term relief when it is needed by families
15 and caregivers regardless of where they live in Maryland; now, therefore,

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

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

19 129A.

20 (A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND CAREGIVERS SUPPORT COORDINATING
21 COUNCIL OF MARYLAND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

22 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL IS TO COORDINATE STATEWIDE
23 PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY CAREGIVER
24 SUPPORT SERVICES.

25 (B) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS,
26 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

27 (I) ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE~~ TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
28 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;

29 (II) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
30 HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

31 (III) ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE~~ TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
32 DEPARTMENT OF AGING, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING
33 DIRECTOR;

34 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR
35 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;

1 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND RESPITE CARE
2 COALITION;

3 (VI) TWO CONSUMERS OF RESPITE SERVICES;

4 (VII) THREE FAMILY CAREGIVERS; AND

5 (VIII) THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE
6 OR HAVE INTEREST OR EXPERTISE IN RESPITE SERVICES.

7 (2) IN APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR, TO
8 THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, SHALL CONSIDER GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH:

9 (I) ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS;

10 (II) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;

11 (III) PHYSICAL DISABILITIES;

12 (IV) CHRONIC ILLNESSES;

13 (V) MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE
14 SUPERVISION; AND

15 (VI) VULNERABILITY TO ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

16 (3) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE A 3-YEAR TERM AND MAY
17 BE REAPPOINTED.

18 (4) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
19 FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS.

20 (5) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF
21 SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO
22 SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL.

23 (6) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
24 COMPENSATION EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES
25 UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
26 BUDGET.

27 (C) THE COUNCIL SHALL:

28 (1) SOLICIT AND GATHER CONCERNS OF CAREGIVERS BY CONDUCTING
29 SURVEYS, HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS, ESTABLISHING A TELEPHONE HOTLINE FOR
30 PUBLIC ACCESS, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS;

31 (2) DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE TO INTERESTED PARTIES A HANDBOOK
32 OF CURRENT AND OTHER FAMILY CAREGIVER SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE STATE;

33 (3) REVIEW SUCCESSFUL RESPITE CARE PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES;

1 (4) DEVELOP A MODEL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM THAT
2 INCORPORATES BEST PRACTICES FROM EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE STATE AND IN
3 OTHER STATES;

4 (5) COORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED FAMILY
5 CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES AMONG THE STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES;

6 (6) RESEARCH AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES AND EXPLORE
7 POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS; AND

8 (7) IDENTIFY UNMET NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

9 (D) THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §
10 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN
11 ANNUAL REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1,
13 2002, the Council shall submit a report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
14 State Government Article, to the General Assembly with a plan of action for family
15 caregiver support services.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 July 1, 2001.