
By: **Delegates Shriver, Benson, Bronrott, Brown, Cane, Carlson, Conroy, Cryor, C. Davis, DeCarlo, Dembrow, Dobson, Franchot, Frush, Fulton, Grosfeld, Heller, Hurson, V. Jones, Kirk, Love, Marriott, Moe, Petzold, Phillips, Riley, Swain, and Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Strengthening Foundations for School Readiness Act of 2002**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families,
4 through the Early Childhood Mental Health Steering Committee, to develop a
5 system of community-based early intervention mental health services for
6 children; requiring the mental health services to include certain provisions;
7 requiring the Subcabinet and the Steering Committee to develop certain
8 training for child care providers; requiring the Subcabinet and the Steering
9 Committee to work with the Maryland Higher Education Commission for
10 certain educational and scholarship programs; defining certain terms; providing
11 for the implementation of this Act; and generally relating to early intervention
12 mental health services for children.

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 10-927 and 10-928 to be under the new part "Part V. Early Intervention
16 Mental Health Services for Children"
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, School readiness has been identified by the General Assembly as
21 crucial to a child's ability to fulfill his or her potential; and

22 WHEREAS, The first statewide assessment of Maryland children's school
23 readiness through the Work Sampling System administered by the State Department
24 of Education indicated that only 48% of kindergartners were rated as having the full
25 personal and social development skills necessary to undertake kindergarten work;
26 and

1 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Sciences has recognized that equal
2 attention be given to a young child's personal and social development as is paid to
3 literacy and numeracy skills; and

4 WHEREAS, The Office of the Surgeon General of the United States has noted
5 the lack of a comprehensive system of mental health care for children as well as
6 inadequate training of front-line providers of child services (for example, educators,
7 child care providers, and physicians); and

8 WHEREAS, The Governor and the General Assembly in recent years have
9 invested in expanded opportunities to ensure that children enter school ready to learn
10 and that these existing programs represent an infrastructure upon which to build
11 supplemental services to improve school readiness; now, therefore,

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

14 **Article - Health - General**

15 PART V. EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

16 10-927.

17 (A) IN THIS PART V OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
18 MEANINGS INDICATED.

19 (B) "COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
20 FOR CHILDREN" MEANS SERVICES:

21 (1) TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY
22 REMEDYING OR PERMITTING CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 YEARS TO OVERCOME
23 RISK FACTORS THAT WOULD IMPEDE THEIR EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL GROWTH AND
24 DEVELOPMENT OR DEVELOP PROTECTIVE FACTORS AGAINST SUCH RISKS;

25 (2) THAT INTEGRATE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AS MUCH AS
26 POSSIBLE INTO EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS; AND

27 (3) THAT CONNECT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 YEARS AND THEIR
28 FAMILIES TO OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES AS APPROPRIATE.

29 (C) "STEERING COMMITTEE" MEANS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL
30 HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SUBCABINET CHAIRED BY THE
31 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, THE MENTAL HYGIENE
32 ADMINISTRATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

33 (D) "SUBCABINET" MEANS THE SUBCABINET FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
34 FAMILIES UNDER ARTICLE 49D OF THE CODE.

1 (E) "THERAPEUTIC NURSERY PROGRAM" MEANS A CLINICAL PROGRAM
2 APPROVED TO PROVIDE THERAPEUTIC NURSERY SERVICES UNDER REGULATIONS
3 ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

4 10-928.

5 (A) THE SUBCABINET, THROUGH THE STEERING COMMITTEE, SHALL
6 DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL
7 HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

8 (B) A SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL
9 HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN SHALL INCLUDE:

10 (1) ON-SITE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION BY QUALIFIED EARLY
11 CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EARLY
12 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS;

13 (2) MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION, SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT
14 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN REMOVED TO FOSTER CARE; AND

15 (3) THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTENSIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL
16 HEALTH SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6
17 YEARS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO INCLUDE AT LEAST OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH
18 SERVICES AND THERAPEUTIC NURSERY PROGRAMS.

19 (C) THE SUBCABINET, THROUGH THE STEERING COMMITTEE, SHALL
20 DEVELOP FORMAL TRAINING IN THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF
21 YOUNG CHILDREN FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS THAT SHALL BE INTEGRATED INTO
22 THE MARYLAND CHILD CARE CREDENTIAL SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT
23 OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

24 (D) THE SUBCABINET, THROUGH THE STEERING COMMITTEE, SHALL WORK
25 WITH THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION SO THAT EDUCATIONAL
26 PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ARE AVAILABLE TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE
27 SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, For fiscal year 2003, in
29 implementing § 10-928(b)(1) and (2) of the Health - General Article, as enacted by
30 Section 1 of this Act, on-site mental health consultation by qualified early childhood
31 mental health professionals shall be available to all Family Support Centers, Judy
32 Centers, Early Head Start Programs, Infants and Toddlers Programs, child care
33 providers, and to children removed to foster care.

34 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, For fiscal year 2004, in
35 implementing § 10-928(b)(1) and (2) of the Health - General Article, as enacted by
36 Section 1 of this Act, in addition to those programs already served, on-site mental
37 health consultation by qualified early childhood mental health professionals shall be
38 available to Head Start programs and all public pre-kindergarten programs.

1 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, For fiscal year 2005, in
2 implementing § 10-928(b)(1) and (2) of the Health - General Article, as enacted by
3 Section 1 of this Act, in addition to those programs already served, on-site mental
4 health consultation by qualified early childhood mental health professionals shall be
5 available to all private pre-kindergarten programs.

6 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 July 1, 2002.