

---

By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2003

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health - Early Childhood Mental Health Services - Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Early Childhood Mental Health Services Pilot  
4 Program; requiring the pilot program to provide mental health screening and  
5 consultation for certain children; specifying that the pilot program may include  
6 formal training for child care providers, therapeutic nursery programs, family  
7 support initiatives, crisis intervention services, certain recruiting programs, and  
8 certain mental health consultation; requiring certain agencies to submit a  
9 certain report; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; providing for  
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Early Childhood  
11 Mental Health Services Pilot Program.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Health - General

14 Section 10-1501 through 10-1503, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle

15 "Subtitle 15. Early Childhood Mental Health Services Pilot Program"

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has identified as a priority the development  
20 of strategies to prepare children to enter school ready to learn; and

21 WHEREAS, Recent neurological research strongly supports the proposition that  
22 young children's social and emotional development before they enter school is an  
23 essential foundation to young children's learning skills and later school success; and

24 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that enhancement  
25 of social and emotional development is as important in early childhood as  
26 enhancement of linguistic and cognitive competence and has recommended that  
27 resources similar to those focused on literacy and numerical skills should be devoted  
28 to promoting young children's social and emotional development; and

1 WHEREAS, Few early childhood programs have sufficient capacity to address  
2 the emotional and social developmental needs of eligible children and their families  
3 with prevention and early intervention services; and

4 WHEREAS, Various early childhood mental health initiatives, such as those in  
5 Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County, and services provided throughout the  
6 State by the Abilities Network have shown very promising results for young children  
7 and their families; and

8 WHEREAS, There will be significant cost savings in future years in the areas of  
9 child welfare placements, juvenile justice placements, special education placements,  
10 and psychiatric residential treatment centers; now, therefore,

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

13 **Article - Health - General**

14 **SUBTITLE 15. EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 10-1501.

16 THERE IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM  
17 IN BALTIMORE CITY AND THE EASTERN SHORE.

18 10-1502.

19 (A) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND  
20 CONSULTATION SERVICES:

21 (1) FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 YEARS WHO ARE IN EARLY  
22 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS OR IN LICENSED OR REGISTERED CHILD CARE FACILITIES;  
23 AND

24 (2) TO LICENSED OR REGISTERED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

25 (B) THE PILOT PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE:

26 (1) FORMAL TRAINING OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN THE SOCIAL AND  
27 EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD;

28 (2) MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS;

29 (3) MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION TO MEET THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS  
30 OF A CHILD AND FAMILY PROVIDED AT THE CHILD CARE SITE OR IN THE FAMILY'S  
31 HOME;

32 (4) FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVES;

33 (5) CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES;

1 (6) THERAPEUTIC NURSERY PROGRAMS; AND

2 (7) PROGRAMS TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL  
3 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HIGHER EDUCATION  
4 INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE.

5 10-1503.

6 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2005, THE CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATION, IN  
7 COLLABORATION WITH THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION, THE STATE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,  
9 AND FAMILIES, SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
10 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT  
11 EVALUATES THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND  
12 COMPARABLE PROGRAMS AS APPLICABLE.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent  
14 on the receipt of sufficient federal funds or funds from any other private or public  
15 source, including the continued receipt of funds from sources that funded the pilot  
16 program in Baltimore City and the Eastern Shore prior to July 1, 2003. If the Child  
17 Care Administration receives the funding specified in this section, it shall forward a  
18 notice of the receipt of the funding within 5 days of receipt to the Department of  
19 Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of  
21 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a  
22 period of 4 years and 3 months and, at the end of December 31, 2007, with no further  
23 action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further  
24 force and effect.