
By: **Delegates Zirkin, Amedori, Nathan-Pulliam, and O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2003

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Juvenile Justice - Mentoring Program - "Maryland Rising"**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Juvenile Justice to establish a
4 statewide program of volunteer mentors for children in detention; establishing
5 that the program shall be called "Maryland Rising"; establishing the purpose of
6 the program; requiring the Department to develop a statewide network of State
7 and community agencies, volunteer organizations, and other groups to recruit
8 mentors; providing for the role of mentors; requiring the Department to take
9 certain actions; requiring the program to be funded within the existing
10 Department of Juvenile Justice budget; authorizing the Department to adopt
11 certain regulations; and generally relating to a mentoring program in the
12 Department of Juvenile Justice called "Maryland Rising".

13 BY adding to
14 Article 83C - Juvenile Justice
15 Section 2-127.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

20 **Article 83C - Juvenile Justice**

21 2-127.1.

22 (A) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A
23 VOLUNTEER MENTOR FOR EACH CHILD IN THE STATE WHO IS IN DETENTION, AS
24 DEFINED IN § 3-8A-01(M) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.

25 (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE CALLED "MARYLAND RISING".

26 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED
27 ATTENTION TO A CHILD:

1 (1) TO DECREASE THE CHILD'S DELINQUENT OR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR IN
2 THE COMMUNITY; AND

3 (2) TO INCREASE THE CHILD'S POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING A
4 PRODUCTIVE, SUCCESSFUL MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

5 (C) (1) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT
6 SHALL DEVELOP A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF STATE AGENCIES, COMMUNITY
7 AGENCIES, CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS, SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, VOLUNTEER
8 ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGE STUDENT GROUPS, AND OTHER GROUPS WHO WILL
9 RECRUIT VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR CHILDREN IN DETENTION.

10 (2) A MENTOR SHALL HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE CHILD AND
11 MAY PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO THE CHILD:

12 (I) INFORMAL COUNSELING;

13 (II) TUTORING;

14 (III) ASSISTING THE CHILD WITH LIFE SKILLS TRAINING;

15 (IV) WORKING WITH THE CHILD'S FAMILY OR GUARDIAN;

16 (V) INTERACTING WITH THE CHILD'S SCHOOL OR EMPLOYER, IF
17 NECESSARY; AND

18 (VI) OTHER INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES THAT HELP THE
19 CHILD AVOID NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS AND BECOME A SUCCESSFUL, PRODUCTIVE
20 MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

21 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ATTEMPT TO MATCH A MENTOR WITH A
22 CHILD WITHIN 2 WEEKS AFTER THE CHILD IS PLACED IN DETENTION.

23 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTACT THE MENTOR ON A REGULAR
24 BASIS TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION OF THE CHILD.

25 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENCOURAGE THE MENTOR TO BECOME AN
26 IMPORTANT PART OF THE CHILD'S RECOVERY AND TREATMENT PROGRAM.

27 (E) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED BY THE EXISTING BUDGET OF THE
28 DEPARTMENT.

29 (F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
30 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2003.