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By: **Delegates Rosenberg and Branch**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Investment Program - Domestic Violence and Depression Screening**  
3 **Pilot Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to establish a  
5 certain pilot program in Baltimore City to screen certain individuals for  
6 domestic violence and depression; requiring a mental health specialist to assess  
7 the need of certain applicants or recipients of Family Investment Program  
8 assistance for treatment resulting from domestic violence or depression under  
9 certain circumstances; requiring the mental health specialist to screen certain  
10 applicants or recipients of Family Investment Program assistance to expose  
11 potential barriers to employment; requiring the mental health specialist to  
12 inform each applicant or recipient of the availability of certain services;  
13 requiring the mental health specialist to conduct, or refer the applicant or  
14 recipient for, a detailed assessment of the applicant's or recipient's domestic  
15 situation or mental health; requiring the mental health specialist to refer an  
16 applicant or recipient for certain services; requiring the mental health specialist  
17 to forward an applicant's or recipient's name to a certain service provider under  
18 certain circumstances; requiring a mental health specialist to obtain certain  
19 treatment information from a service provider; authorizing a certain provider to  
20 notify a mental health specialist of the treatment status of an applicant or  
21 recipient under certain circumstances; authorizing a mental health specialist to  
22 notify a Family Investment Program case manager under certain circumstances;  
23 requiring that certain individuals receive certain benefits under certain  
24 circumstances; exempting certain individuals from work activity requirements  
25 for a certain period of time under certain circumstances; defining a certain term;  
26 limiting the total cost of the pilot program to a certain amount; requiring the  
27 Secretary of Human Resources to report annually on the status of the pilot  
28 program; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the  
29 Family Investment Program and the domestic violence and depression screening  
30 pilot program.

31 BY adding to

32 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources

33 Section 50B

34 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

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

5 50B.

6 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST" MEANS A MENTAL  
7 HEALTH SPECIALIST WHO IS LOCATED ON-SITE AT A LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

8 (B) THE SECRETARY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL DIRECTOR OF  
9 SOCIAL SERVICES IN BALTIMORE CITY, SHALL ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO  
10 SCREEN ADULT AND MINOR PARENT APPLICANTS FOR, AND RECIPIENTS OF, FIP  
11 ASSISTANCE FOR INDICATIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR DEPRESSION.

12 (C) (1) A MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST SHALL ASSESS THE NEED OF ANY  
13 ADULT OR MINOR PARENT APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT FOR TREATMENT RESULTING  
14 FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR DEPRESSION:

15 (I) AT THE INITIAL APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY CASH  
16 ASSISTANCE; OR

17 (II) WHEN CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY THE FIP CASE MANAGER  
18 OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

19 (2) THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST SHALL SCREEN THE APPLICANT  
20 OR RECIPIENT TO EXPOSE POTENTIAL BARRIERS THAT THE APPLICANT OR  
21 RECIPIENT MAY HAVE IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT SUCH AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
22 OR DEPRESSION.

23 (3) THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST SHALL INFORM EACH ADULT OR  
24 MINOR PARENT APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES OR  
25 TREATMENT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR FOR DEPRESSION.

26 (D) (1) IF THE SCREENING PERFORMED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH  
27 SPECIALIST REVEALS THAT AN APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC  
28 VIOLENCE OR SHOWS SIGNS OF DEPRESSION, THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST  
29 SHALL:

30 (I) CONDUCT, OR REFER THE APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT FOR, A  
31 DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICANT'S OR RECIPIENT'S DOMESTIC SITUATION  
32 OR MENTAL HEALTH;

33 (II) REFER THE APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT FOR THE APPROPRIATE  
34 SERVICES;

1 (III) FORWARD THE APPLICANT'S OR RECIPIENT'S NAME, WITH THE  
2 APPROVAL OF THE APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT, TO THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE  
3 PROVIDER; AND

4 (IV) OBTAIN ANY NECESSARY TREATMENT INFORMATION FROM  
5 THE SERVICE PROVIDER.

6 (2) (I) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT, THE  
7 SERVICE PROVIDER MAY NOTIFY THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST OF THE  
8 ONGOING TREATMENT STATUS OF THE APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT.

9 (II) THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST MAY NOTIFY THE FIP CASE  
10 MANAGER IF AN APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT:

- 11 1. IS REFERRED FOR APPROPRIATE SERVICES;
- 12 2. IS AWAITING THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE  
13 SERVICES;
- 14 3. IS ENROLLED IN A SERVICE PROGRAM; OR
- 15 4. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A SERVICE PROGRAM.

16 (III) THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST MAY ALSO NOTIFY THE FIP  
17 CASE MANAGER REGARDING THE ONGOING TREATMENT STATUS OF THE APPLICANT  
18 OR RECIPIENT.

19 (E) AN ADULT OR MINOR PARENT APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT WHO  
20 PARTICIPATES IN THE PILOT PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION:

21 (1) SHALL RECEIVE A FULL TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE BENEFIT AS  
22 LONG AS THE APPLICANT OR RECIPIENT MEETS THE OTHER TEMPORARY CASH  
23 ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; AND

24 (2) MAY BE EXEMPT FROM THE WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A  
25 PERIOD OF TIME DETERMINED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION  
26 WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the total annual cost of  
28 the domestic violence and depression screening pilot program established under this  
29 Act may not exceed \$250,000.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Human  
31 Resources shall report annually, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,  
32 to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee on the  
33 status of the domestic violence and depression screening pilot program.

34 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
35 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June

1 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.