

SENATE BILL 175

E3

71r1528

By: **Senators Zirkin and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juveniles – Mentoring Program – “Maryland Rising”**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Juvenile Services to establish a
4 statewide program of volunteer mentors for children in detention or committed
5 placement; requiring the Program to try and place mentors in a certain manner;
6 establishing that the Program shall be called “Maryland Rising”; establishing
7 the purpose of the Program; requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to
8 develop a statewide network of State and community agencies, volunteer
9 organizations, and other groups to recruit mentors; providing for the role of
10 mentors; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; and
11 generally relating to a mentoring Program in the Department of Juvenile
12 Services called “Maryland Rising”.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Human Services

15 Section 9–240.1

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (As enacted by Chapter_____ (S.B. 6) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
18 2007)

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

21 **Article – Human Services**

22 **9–240.1.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ATTEMPT**
2 **TO PROVIDE A VOLUNTEER MENTOR FOR EACH CHILD IN THE STATE WHO IS IN**
3 **DETENTION, AS DEFINED IN § 3-8A-01(N) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE, OR A**
4 **COMMITTED PLACEMENT.**

5 **(2) IN ASSIGNING A MENTOR, THE PROGRAM SHALL TRY TO**
6 **CHOOSE A MENTOR THAT CAN STAY WITH THE CHILD FROM THE INITIAL**
7 **DETENTION THROUGH ANY AFTERCARE THAT IS REQUIRED.**

8 **(3) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE CALLED “MARYLAND RISING”.**

9 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED**
10 **ATTENTION TO A CHILD:**

11 **(1) TO DECREASE THE CHILD’S DELINQUENT OR VIOLENT**
12 **BEHAVIOR IN THE COMMUNITY; AND**

13 **(2) TO INCREASE THE CHILD’S POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING A**
14 **PRODUCTIVE, SUCCESSFUL MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.**

15 **(C) (1) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, THE**
16 **DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF STATE AGENCIES,**
17 **COMMUNITY AGENCIES, CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS, SOCIAL SERVICES**
18 **PROVIDERS, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGE STUDENT GROUPS, AND**
19 **OTHER GROUPS WHO WILL RECRUIT VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR CHILDREN IN**
20 **DETENTION.**

21 **(2) A MENTOR SHALL HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE**
22 **CHILD AND MAY PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO THE CHILD:**

23 **(I) INFORMAL COUNSELING;**

24 **(II) TUTORING;**

25 **(III) ASSISTING THE CHILD WITH LIFE SKILLS TRAINING;**

26 **(IV) WORKING WITH THE CHILD’S FAMILY OR GUARDIAN;**

1 **(V) INTERACTING WITH THE CHILD'S SCHOOL OR**
2 **EMPLOYER, IF NECESSARY; AND**

3 **(VI) OTHER INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES THAT**
4 **HELP THE CHILD AVOID NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS AND BECOME A SUCCESSFUL,**
5 **PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.**

6 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**
7 **SECTION.**

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2007.