

CHAPTER 526

(Senate Bill 175)

AN ACT concerning

Juveniles – Mentoring Program – “Maryland Rising”

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Juvenile Services to establish a statewide program of volunteer mentors for children ~~in detention or~~ who have spent a certain amount of time in a committed placement; ~~requiring the Program to try and place mentors in a certain manner;~~ establishing that the Program shall be called “Maryland Rising”; establishing the purpose of the Program; requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to develop a statewide network of State and community agencies, volunteer organizations, and other groups to recruit mentors; providing for the role of mentors; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to a mentoring Program in the Department of Juvenile Services called “Maryland Rising”.

BY adding to

Article – Human Services

Section 9–240.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter 3 (S.B. 6) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007)

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

Article – Human Services

9–240.1.

(A) (1) **THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A VOLUNTEER MENTOR FOR EACH CHILD IN THE STATE WHO ~~IS IN DETENTION, AS DEFINED IN § 3-8A-01(N) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE, OR HAS SPENT AT LEAST 30 DAYS IN A COMMITTED PLACEMENT.~~**

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

~~(3)~~ (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE CALLED “MARYLAND RISING”.

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

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

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

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

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

(I) INFORMAL COUNSELING;

(II) TUTORING;

(III) ASSISTING THE CHILD WITH LIFE SKILLS TRAINING;

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.