

HOUSE BILL 1234

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By: **Delegate Kach**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Residential Centers and State Facilities - Study - Services for**
3 **Developmentally Disabled Individuals**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 engage an independent consultant to study and make recommendations on
6 issues related to the provision of services for developmentally disabled
7 individuals in State residential centers and State facilities; requiring the
8 independent consultant to work with the Department and a certain employee
9 organization in developing certain recommendations; requiring the Department
10 to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or
11 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
12 relating to a study of services for developmentally disabled individuals in State
13 residential centers and State facilities.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall engage an
17 independent consultant to study and make recommendations on the following issues
18 regarding the provision of services for developmentally disabled individuals in State
19 residential centers and State facilities:

20 (1) any federal requirements or restrictions that limit or encourage
21 flexibility in providing services to developmentally disabled individuals in State
22 residential centers or State facilities;

23 (2) the availability of federal funds for financing services for
24 developmentally disabled individuals in State residential centers or State facilities
25 and any restrictions on the federal funds;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) methods of providing services to developmentally disabled
2 individuals by public employees;

3 (4) the best practices regarding training requirements for individuals
4 providing both court-related and noncourt-related services; and

5 (5) appropriate staffing levels for employees in State residential
6 centers and State facilities.

7 (b) The independent consultant shall work with the Department of Health
8 and Mental Hygiene and the employee organization designated as the exclusive
9 representative of the employees of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in
10 developing the recommendations required under subsection (a) of this section.

11 (c) On or before September 1, 2009, the Department of Health and Mental
12 Hygiene shall submit a report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
13 Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and
14 the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the findings and
15 recommendations of the independent consultant under subsection (a) of this section.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
18 September 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
19 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.