

SENATE BILL 575

E3

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By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2010

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Services – Maryland Rising Program – Volunteer Mentors**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Rising Program to provide a volunteer
4 mentor for each child in the State who has spent at least 30 days in a committed
5 placement; requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to adopt regulations
6 to implement the Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Rising
7 Program in the Department of Juvenile Services.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Human Services
10 Section 9–240.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2007 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Human Services**

16 9–240.1.

17 (a) (1) The Secretary shall establish a Program [to attempt] to provide a
18 volunteer mentor for each child in the State who has spent at least 30 days in a
19 committed placement.

20 (2) The Program shall be called “Maryland Rising”.

21 (b) The purpose of the Program is to provide individualized attention to a
22 child:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) to decrease the child's delinquent or violent behavior in the
2 community; and

3 (2) to increase the child's potential for becoming a productive,
4 successful member of the community.

5 (c) (1) To carry out the purpose of the Program, the Department shall
6 develop a statewide network of State agencies, community agencies, citizen action
7 groups, social services providers, volunteer organizations, college student groups, and
8 other groups who will recruit volunteer mentors for the Program.

9 (2) A mentor shall have frequent contact with the child and may
10 provide the following services to the child:

11 (i) informal counseling;

12 (ii) tutoring;

13 (iii) assisting the child with life skills training;

14 (iv) working with the child's family or guardian;

15 (v) interacting with the child's school or employer, if necessary;
16 and

17 (vi) other individualized support services that help the child
18 avoid negative behaviors and become a successful, productive member of the
19 community.

20 (d) The Department [may] **SHALL** adopt regulations to implement this
21 section.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2010.