

Chapter 178

(Senate Bill 856)

AN ACT concerning

Public Safety – Sexual Offender Advisory Board

FOR the purpose of altering the composition of a certain Sexual Offender Advisory Board; requiring certain members of the Board to have certain expertise; providing for the terms of the appointed members of the Board to be staggered in a certain manner; altering the duties of the Board; requiring the Board to make a certain report by a certain date; repealing a requirement that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene provide staff to the Board; making certain conforming changes; and generally relating to the Sexual Offender Advisory Board.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–401
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

1–401.

(a) There is a Sexual Offender Advisory Board [in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services].

(b) The Board consists of the following members:

(1) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary's designee;

(2) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(3) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

[(2)] (4) the Director of the Division of Parole and Probation, or the Director's designee;

[(3)] (5) the Chairman of the Maryland Parole Commission, or the Chairman's designee;

(6) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM CENTRAL REPOSITORY, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

[(4)] (7) the Executive Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Executive Director's designee;

[(5)] (8) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;
[and]

(9) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

[(6)] (10) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) a representative from a [victim's] **VICTIMS' advocacy [group] ORGANIZATION OR VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER WITH RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE IN SEXUAL ABUSE AND VICTIMIZATION;**

(ii) [a health care professional with expertise in mental disorders] **A LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WITH RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE IN THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS;**

(iii) a State's Attorney **WITH EXPERTISE IN THE PROSECUTION OF SEXUAL AND CHILD ABUSE CRIMES;**

[(iv)] a lawyer with expertise in criminal defense;]

(IV) AN ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER WITH EXPERTISE IN THE DEFENSE OF SEXUAL AND CHILD ABUSE CRIMES;

(v) [a sexual offender treatment provider;

(vi) a polygrapher;

(vii)] a representative of a local law enforcement unit **WITH EXPERTISE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL AND CHILD ABUSE CRIMES;**

(VI) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER WITH RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE IN SEXUAL ABUSE AND VICTIMIZATION; and

[(viii)] (VII) two citizen members.

(c) (1) The term of a member appointed by the Governor is 4 years.

(2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Board on [the effective date of Chapter 4 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the Special Session of 2006] **OCTOBER 1, 2010.**

(3) At the end of a term an appointed member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(5) A member whose term has expired may be reappointed to the Board.

(d) A Board member:

(1) may not receive compensation for serving on the Board; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(e) The Governor shall select a chairman from among the Board's members.

(f) (1) A majority of the Board's members constitutes a quorum.

(2) The Board may adopt rules for conducting business.

(3) The Board shall meet at least twice annually at the times and places determined by the Board.

(g) The Board shall:

(1) **[review technology for the tracking of offenders] IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION ~~AND THE MARYLAND JUDICIARY~~, DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR MEASURING A PERSON'S RISK OF REOFFENDING TO ASSIST THE COURT IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON MAY BE APPROPRIATELY RELEASED FROM SUPERVISION UNDER §§ 11-723 AND 11-724 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE;**

(2) review the effectiveness of the State's laws AND PRACTICES concerning sexual offenders, INCLUDING:

(I) SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS; AND

(II) COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS;

(3) review the laws AND PRACTICES of other states and jurisdictions concerning sexual offenders;

(4) review practices and procedures of the Maryland Parole Commission and the Division of Parole and Probation concerning supervision and monitoring of sexual offenders;

(5) review developments [in] AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR the treatment, MANAGEMENT, and assessment of sexual offenders, INCLUDING:

(I) EXISTING AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE TRACKING OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS;

(II) CIVIL COMMITMENT OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS;

~~(III)~~ (III) EXISTING AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE TREATMENT OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS; AND

~~(IV)~~ (IV) BEST PRACTICES FOR LOWERING RECIDIVISM RATES AND PROTECTING THE PUBLIC;

(6) develop standards for THE CERTIFICATION OF sexual offender treatment PROVIDERS based on current and evolving [best] EVIDENCE-BASED practices AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATEWIDE CERTIFICATION PROCESS;

(7) [certify State sexual offender treatment programs that are in compliance with the Board's standards; and

(8) provide] MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION FOR training [for] sexual offender management teams; AND

(8) CONSIDER WAYS TO INCREASE COOPERATION AMONG STATES WITH REGARD TO SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND MONITORING;~~AND~~

~~(9) CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR PROHIBITING SEXUAL OFFENDERS FROM LIVING WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE OF A SCHOOL, CHURCH, OR OTHER PLACE WHERE CHILDREN CONGREGATE.~~

(h) On or before December 31, [2009] **2010**, and every year thereafter, the Board shall report the findings and recommendations of the Board to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(i) Each unit of State and local government shall cooperate with the Board.

(j) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services [and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene] shall provide staff to the Board.

SECTION 2. AND IT BE FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the members of the Sexual Offender Advisory Board who are appointed on or before October 1, 2010, and who are subject to appointment, shall expire as follows:

- (1) two appointed members in 2012;
- (2) three appointed members in 2013; and
- (3) three appointed members in 2014.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.