

SB0344/504730/1

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 344
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Definition” and substitute “Certification – Change in Date and Implementation Plan”; strike beginning with “definition” in line 3 down through “term” in line 6 and substitute “date by which an individual must receive a certificate from the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals before the individual may be a residential child and youth care practitioner in the State; requiring the Governor’s Office for Children to establish a workgroup composed of certain representatives to develop a plan for implementation of the certification; requiring the workgroup to take certain items into consideration in developing the plan; requiring the plan to specify a certain rate adjustment; requiring the Office to report on the workgroup’s implementation plan to the Governor and certain legislative committees on or before a certain date”; in line 7, after “to” insert “certification of”; and in line 10, strike “20-101” and substitute “20-301(b)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 1 through line 13 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“20-301.

(b) On or before October 1, [2015] 2016, an individual shall receive a certificate from the Board before the individual may be a residential child and youth care practitioner in this State.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, after line 13, insert:

(Over)

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Governor’s Office for Children shall establish a workgroup composed of representatives of the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Interagency Rates Committee, residential child care programs, the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth, and other interested persons to develop a plan for implementation of the certification of residential child and youth care practitioners in 2016.

(b) In developing the plan, the workgroup shall take into consideration:

(1) the costs of implementing certification, including:

(i) the costs to residential child care programs of hiring and retaining residential child and youth care practitioners who meet the certification requirements;

(ii) other costs incurred by residential child care programs to meet the certification requirements;

(iii) any additional costs to the State Board for Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals to meet the 2016 implementation date;

(2) any savings, that residential child care programs might realize from certification to help offset their costs, such as potential savings from reduced staff turnover;

(3) efficient ways to reduce additional costs, such as “train the trainer” programs and common evaluation tools;

(4) the impact of additional costs, net of any savings and efficiencies, to residential care programs on rates established by the Interagency Rate Committee; and

(5) any additional funding sources, separate from the rates established by the Interagency Rate Committee, that may be available to support the additional costs.

(c) The plan shall specify:

(1) the adjustment in rates needed to support the additional costs of certification; and

(2) recommendations for addressing the needed rate increase in the State budget.

(d) On or before September 1, 2011, the Governor's Office for Children shall report on the workgroup's implementation plan to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the rates established for residential child care programs by the Interagency Rate Committee reflect any adjustment, specified in the plan required under Section 2 of this Act, needed to support the additional costs of certification of residential child and youth care practitioners.”;

in line 14, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in line 15, strike “October” and substitute “June”.