

HOUSE BILL 876

D4

11r0096

By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Departmental – Human Resources)**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2011

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2011

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Single Parent Services – Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing provisions of law requiring the Secretary of Human
4 Resources to establish a single parent services program in each local
5 department of social services; repealing related provisions of law; and generally
6 relating to single parent services.

7 BY repealing

8 Article – Family Law

9 Section 6–101 through 6–103 and the title “Title 6. Single Parents”

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Family Law**

15 **[Title 6. Single Parents.]**

16 **[6–101.**

17 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (b) Repealed.

2 (c) "Single parent services" means:

3 (1) counseling 1 or both parents;

4 (2) making the parents aware of the need for prenatal care;

5 (3) helping in a decision about placement for adoption and exploring
6 the involvement of the noncustodial parent;

7 (4) helping parents prepare for employment and training;

8 (5) making a referral to a health care provider;

9 (6) counseling and making a referral for counseling for child rearing
10 problems;

11 (7) helping make adequate living arrangements; and

12 (8) examining any aspect of maternal health, child health, and family
13 planning.]

14 [6-102.

15 The General Assembly declares that:

16 (1) single parents should have access to a comprehensive range of
17 services to enable them to make suitable plans for the care of their children and
18 themselves;

19 (2) youths under the age of 18 years who are pregnant or who are
20 parents of a child for whom they are unprepared to provide adequate care and
21 protection are of special concern;

22 (3) this State has a continuing interest in preventing the problems
23 associated with teenage pregnancy;

24 (4) to the end of preventing the problems associated with teenage
25 pregnancy, single young people who are at risk of parenthood should have access to
26 appropriate counseling and health services; and

27 (5) if the family of a single parent is unavailable, unwilling, or unable
28 to provide financial, material, and emotional support to a single parent, then this
29 State must provide timely services that will:

1 (i) be an effective alternative to costly long term foster care;
2 and

3 (ii) prevent the neglect or abuse of a child of the single parent.]

4 [6–103.

5 (a) With the advice of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the
6 Secretary of Human Resources shall establish in each local department a single parent
7 services program to carry out the policies set forth in § 6–102 of this title.

8 (b) The single parent services provided under this program shall be available
9 to any single youth who is:

10 (1) pregnant;

11 (2) at risk of parenthood; or

12 (3) the parent of a child under the age of 3 years.

13 (c) The Department of Human Resources shall:

14 (1) adopt rules, regulations, and guidelines for the program in each
15 local department;

16 (2) continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the single
17 parent services program;

18 (3) to the extent possible, use grants from federal, State, and other
19 public and private sources to fund the single parent services program;

20 (4) to the extent possible, coordinate delivery of education, health care,
21 mental health care, employment services, and child day care services to single parents
22 by public and private agencies; and

23 (5) provide funds for training persons needed to provide adequate
24 services.]

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2011.