

# HOUSE BILL 1559

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By: The Speaker and Delegates Griffith, Acevero, Alston, Bagnall, Barnes, Beauchamp, Chang, Cullison, Edelson, Forbes, Ghrist, Guzzone, Harrison, Hill, Hinebaugh, Hutchinson, Ivey, S. Johnson, A. Jones, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, McCaskill, Metzgar, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, Ruff, Shetty, Smith, Spiegel, Stonko, Szeliga, Taveras, Toles, Watson, White Holland, Wolek, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations and Health

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstay Patients –**  
3 **Placement**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the placement of children in unlicensed settings under the  
5 out-of-home placement program required to be established by the Social Services  
6 Administration; altering the duties of the pediatric hospital overstay coordinators;  
7 establishing the Child and Youth Placement Review Panel in the Governor's Office  
8 for Children with the ~~Placement Manager as its head; requiring the Placement~~  
9 ~~Manager~~ Senior Advisor for Children and Families as its head; requiring the Senior  
10 Advisor to convene a Rapid Response Placement Team under certain circumstances;  
11 authorizing the Department of Human Services to execute an emergency  
12 procurement with certain providers under certain circumstances; establishing the  
13 Advisory Council on Maryland's System of Care for Children, Youth, and Families;  
14 ~~establishing the Interagency Council on Children, Youth, and Families; authorizing~~  
15 ~~the Governor to transfer positions and funds appropriated for positions from the~~  
16 ~~Workgroup on Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstays to~~  
17 ~~the Office;~~ and generally relating to children in unlicensed settings and pediatric  
18 hospital overstay patients.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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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 Article – Family Law  
2 Section 5–525(a) and (c)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
6 Article – Family Law  
7 Section 5–525(b)(1)  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Family Law  
12 Section 5–525(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
15 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)
- 16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article – Family Law  
18 Section 5–525(b)(1) and (c)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
21 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)
- 22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
23 Article – Health – General  
24 Section 19–388  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 27 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
28 Article – Health – General  
29 Section 19–390  
30 Annotated Code of Maryland  
31 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 32 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
33 Article – Human Services  
34 Section 8–101(a), (j), (m), and (q)  
35 Annotated Code of Maryland  
36 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 37 BY adding to  
38 Article – Human Services

1 Section 8–1401 through 8–1408 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. Child and  
 2 Youth Placement Review”; ~~and 8–1501 through 8–1503 to be under the new~~  
 3 ~~subtitle “Subtitle 15. Interagency Council on Children, Youth, and Families”~~  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Family Law**

9 5–525.

10 (a) (1) In this section[, “disability”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
 11 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

12 **(2) (I) “DISABILITY” means:**

13 [(i)] **1.** a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits  
 14 one or more of an individual’s major life activities;

15 [(ii)] **2.** a record of having a physical or mental impairment that  
 16 substantially limits one or more of an individual’s major life activities; or

17 [(iii)] **3.** being regarded as having a physical or mental impairment  
 18 that substantially limits one or more of an individual’s major life activities.

19 [(2)] **(II) “Disability” shall be construed in accordance with the ADA**  
 20 **Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110–325.**

21 **(3) (I) “SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT” MEANS A**  
 22 **SUBSIDIZED LIVING ARRANGEMENT FOR YOUTH RECEIVING YOUTH TRANSITIONAL**  
 23 **SERVICES IN AN APARTMENT, A BOARDER ARRANGEMENT, A COLLEGE DORM, OR**  
 24 **OTHER LIVING ARRANGEMENT APPROVED BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT.**

25 **(II) “SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT” DOES NOT**  
 26 **INCLUDE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR HOUSING IN A TRANSIENT OR AN**  
 27 **EMERGENCY-TYPE FACILITY, INCLUDING A RESCUE MISSION, A NONRESIDENTIAL**  
 28 **HOTEL OR MOTEL, AN ADULT SHELTER, OR A TOURIST HOME.**

29 ~~(3)~~ **(4) (I) “UNLICENSED SETTING” MEANS A SETTING FOR AN**  
 30 **OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT THAT IS NOT LICENSED BY A STATE LICENSING ENTITY**  
 31 **FOR CUSTODY, PLACEMENT, WELFARE, AND HOUSING OF CHILDREN.**

32 **(II) “UNLICENSED SETTING” INCLUDES:**

- 1                   1.     A HOTEL, MOTEL, OR SHORT-TERM RENTAL;
- 2                   2.     A SHELTER DESIGNATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A
- 3 CHILD WHO HAS RUN AWAY OR WHO IS HOMELESS; AND
- 4                   3.     AN OFFICE BUILDING OR OTHER NONRESIDENTIAL
- 5 ENVIRONMENT.

6                   (III) “UNLICENSED SETTING” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- 7                   1.     THE VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT OF A FORMER CINA;
- 8                   2.     A SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT; OR
- 9                   ~~2.~~ 3.    THE PLACEMENT OF A CHILD WITH:

10                   A.     AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A KINSHIP CAREGIVER OR

11 FOSTER PARENT OR WHO IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING TO BE A KINSHIP

12 CAREGIVER OR FOSTER PARENT; OR

13                   B.     A PARENT, INCLUDING IN A FAMILY-BASED

14 RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SETTING.

15                   (b)    (1)    The Administration shall establish a program of out-of-home

16 placement for minor children:

17                           (i)    who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period

18 of not more than 180 days, by a parent or legal guardian under a voluntary placement

19 agreement;

20                           (ii)   who are abused, abandoned, neglected, or dependent, if a

21 juvenile court:

22                                   1.    has determined that continued residence in the child’s

23 home is contrary to the child’s welfare; and

24                                   2.    has committed the child to the custody or guardianship of

25 a local department; or

26                                   (iii) who, with the approval of the Administration, are placed in an

27 out-of-home placement by a local department under a voluntary placement agreement

28 subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection.

1 (c) (1) [In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
2 SUBSECTION, IN establishing the out-of-home placement program the Administration  
3 shall:

4 [(1)] (I) provide time-limited family reunification services to a child  
5 placed in an out-of-home placement and to the parents or guardian of the child, in order  
6 to facilitate the child's safe and appropriate reunification within a timely manner;

7 [(2)] (II) concurrently develop and implement a permanency plan that is  
8 in the best interests of the child; and

9 [(3)] (III) provide training on an annual basis for the staff at each local  
10 department who administer requests for voluntary placement agreements for children with  
11 developmental disabilities or mental illnesses under subsection (b) of this section.

12 (2) THE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE  
13 ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROHIBIT THE ~~PLACEMENT OF A CHILD IN~~ USE OF AN  
14 UNLICENSED SETTING FOR A CHILD.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
16 as follows:

17 Article – Family Law

18 5-525.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) (i) “Disability” means:

21 1. a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits  
22 one or more of an individual's major life activities;

23 2. a record of having a physical or mental impairment that  
24 substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities; or

25 3. being regarded as having a physical or mental impairment  
26 that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities.

27 (ii) “Disability” shall be construed in accordance with the ADA  
28 Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110-325.

29 (3) (i) “Semi-independent living arrangement” means a subsidized  
30 living arrangement for youth receiving youth transitional services in an apartment, a  
31 boarder arrangement, a college dorm, or other living arrangement approved by a local  
32 department.

1                   (ii) “Semi-independent living arrangement” does not include an  
 2 arrangement for housing in a transient or an emergency-type facility, including a rescue  
 3 mission, a nonresidential hotel or motel, an adult shelter, or a tourist home.

4                   (4) (i) “Unlicensed setting” means a setting for an  
 5 out-of-home placement that is not licensed by a State licensing entity for custody,  
 6 placement, welfare, and housing of children.

7                   (ii) “Unlicensed setting” includes:

8                   1. a hotel, motel, or short-term rental;

9                   2. a shelter designated to meet the needs of a child who has  
 10 run away or who is homeless; [and]

11                   3. an office building or other nonresidential environment;

12 AND

13                   4. AN INPATIENT UNIT OR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF  
 14 A HOSPITAL IN WHICH THE CHILD IS A PATIENT UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS WHO  
 15 REMAINS FOR MORE THAN 48 HOURS AFTER BEING MEDICALLY CLEARED FOR  
 16 DISCHARGE OR TRANSFER.

17                   (iii) “Unlicensed setting” does not include:

18                   1. the voluntary placement of a former CINA;

19                   2. a semi-independent living arrangement;

20 or

21                   3. the placement of a child with:

22                   A. an individual who is a kinship caregiver or foster parent  
 23 or who is in the process of applying to be a kinship caregiver or foster parent; or

24                   B. a parent, including in a family-based residential  
 25 treatment setting.

26                   (b) (1) The Administration shall establish a program of out-of-home  
 27 placement for minor children:

28                   (i) who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period  
 29 of not more than 180 days, by a parent or legal guardian under a voluntary placement  
 30 agreement;



1 (a) The Department and the Department of Human Services shall establish a  
2 pediatric hospital overstay coordinator within each department.

3 (b) The coordinators shall act in the best interest of a pediatric overstay patient  
4 by ~~coordinating~~;

5 ~~(1) REPORTING ANY INSTANCE OF A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY~~  
6 ~~PATIENT TO THE PLACEMENT MANAGER IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR~~  
7 ~~CHILDREN AS SOON AS THE PATIENT IS KNOWN TO THE COORDINATOR; AND~~

8 ~~(2) COORDINATING~~ between hospitals, relevant State agencies and  
9 programs, and providers of mental health and substance use disorder services.

10 (c) The coordinators shall:

11 (1) Advocate on behalf of pediatric hospital overstay patients while  
12 maintaining appropriate patient confidentiality;

13 (2) Review policies and procedures of relevant State agencies and make  
14 recommendations for necessary changes to the policies and procedures to better serve  
15 pediatric hospital overstay patients;

16 (3) Maintain data on each pediatric hospital overstay patient, including:

17 (i) Patient's length of stay;

18 (ii) The responsible State agency, if applicable;

19 (iii) Services needed;

20 (iv) Placement options being sought by the patient;

21 (v) Information regarding previous hospital admissions for a  
22 behavioral health diagnosis; ~~and~~

23 (VI) INFORMATION REGARDING WHETHER THE ADMISSION WAS  
24 BASED ON AN EMERGENCY PETITION AND, IF SO, WHETHER THE EMERGENCY  
25 PETITION WAS EXECUTED IN A SCHOOL; AND

26 ~~(vi)~~ (VII) Any other relevant data; and

27 (4) [Report] **PROVIDE MONTHLY REPORTS** on the data collected under  
28 this subsection to the Secretary [and], the Secretary of Human Services, **AND THE CHILD**  
29 **AND YOUTH PLACEMENT REVIEW PANEL IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR**  
30 **CHILDREN.**



1       ~~(E)~~ (D)       “PLACEMENT TEAM” MEANS THE RAPID RESPONSE PLACEMENT  
2 TEAM.

3       ~~(F)~~ (E)       “REVIEW PANEL” MEANS THE CHILD AND YOUTH PLACEMENT  
4 REVIEW PANEL.

5       (F) “SENIOR ADVISOR” MEANS THE SENIOR ADVISOR FOR CHILDREN AND  
6 FAMILIES IN THE OFFICE.

7 8-1402.

8       THERE IS A CHILD AND YOUTH PLACEMENT REVIEW PANEL IN THE OFFICE.

9 8-1403.

10       (A) (1) ~~THE HEAD OF THE REVIEW PANEL IS THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~  
11 THERE IS A SENIOR ADVISOR FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE OFFICE.

12       (2) THE SENIOR ADVISOR SHALL OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE  
13 REVIEW PANEL.

14       ~~(2) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE~~  
15 ~~GOVERNOR.~~

16       (3) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~ SENIOR ADVISOR SERVES AT THE  
17 PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR.

18       (B) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~ SENIOR ADVISOR SHALL DEVOTE  
19 FULL-TIME TO THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

20       (C) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~ SENIOR ADVISOR IS ENTITLED TO:

21       (1) COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET; AND

22       (2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE  
23 TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

24       (D) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~ SENIOR ADVISOR SHALL:

25       (1) SERVE AS THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL  
26 OVERSTAY COORDINATORS;

1           (2) OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE REVIEW PANEL TO ENSURE THE  
2 PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN  
3 IN UNLICENSED SETTINGS IN THE STATE; ~~AND~~

4           (3) KEEP THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE REVIEW PANEL; AND

5           (4) DOCUMENT INFORMATION FOR CASES USING STANDARD FORMS  
6 AND DATA.

7 8-1404.

8           (A) THE REVIEW PANEL CONSISTS OF:

9           (1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

10           (2) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
11 DESIGNEE;

12           (3) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE  
13 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

14           (4) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SENIOR ADVISOR; AND~~

15           (5) ~~THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:~~

16           ~~(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF~~  
17 ~~SOCIAL SERVICES;~~

18           ~~(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF 211 MARYLAND;~~

19           ~~(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP WITH~~  
20 ~~EXPERTISE IN FOSTER CARE;~~

21           ~~(IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LEGAL ADVOCACY GROUP WITH~~  
22 ~~EXPERTISE IN FOSTER CARE;~~

23           ~~(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND RESOURCE~~  
24 ~~PARENT ASSOCIATION WHO HAS LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH FOSTER CARE;~~

25           ~~(VI) ONE CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER;~~

26           ~~(VII) ONE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER;~~

1 ~~(VIII) TWO LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS WITH~~  
2 ~~EXPERTISE IN TRAUMA, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN~~  
3 ~~CHILD AND ADOLESCENT CARE AND FAMILY CARE; AND~~

4 ~~(IX) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE STATE~~  
5 ~~FOSTER CARE SYSTEM~~ THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE  
6 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; AND

7 (6) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH -  
8 GENERAL ARTICLE.

9 ~~(B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE~~  
10 ~~REVIEW PANEL SHALL REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL, ETHNIC, CULTURAL,~~  
11 ~~AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE~~ IN CONDUCTING THE ANALYSIS REQUIRED  
12 UNDER § 8-1406 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE REVIEW PANEL MAY CONSULT WITH  
13 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHILD.

14 (C) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT A MEETING SHALL  
15 CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

16 (D) THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL MEET MONTHLY AT LEAST EVERY 2 MONTHS  
17 AT THE TIMES AND PLACES THE REVIEW PANEL DETERMINES.

18 8-1405.

19 (A) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~ SENIOR ADVISOR SHALL SERVE AS THE  
20 CHAIR OF THE REVIEW PANEL.

21 (B) ~~A MEMBER OF THE REVIEW PANEL:~~

22 ~~(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE REVIEW~~  
23 ~~PANEL; BUT~~

24 ~~(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE~~  
25 ~~STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.~~

26 (C) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE REVIEW PANEL.

27 8-1406.

28 (A) THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL:

1           (1) ANALYZE ANY INSTANCE INVOLVING A CHILD IN A PEDIATRIC  
2 OVERSTAY OR AN UNLICENSED SETTING; AND

3           (2) ~~SUPPORT PLACEMENT EFFORTS INVOLVING A CHILD IDENTIFIED~~  
4 ~~UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION BY REFERRING THE CHILD TO:~~

5                   ~~(I) LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES;~~

6                   ~~(II) PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAMS;~~

7                   ~~(III) A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OPERATED BY OR UNDER~~  
8 ~~CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES;~~

9                   ~~(IV) A FOSTER CARE HOME APPROVED BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT~~  
10 ~~OF SOCIAL SERVICES;~~

11                   ~~(V) A TREATMENT FOSTER CARE HOME;~~

12                   ~~(VI) THE PLACEMENT TEAM; OR~~

13                   ~~(VII) ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITY TO SUPPORT THE~~  
14 ~~PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD~~ PROPOSE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENTS BASED ON THE  
15 ANALYSIS CONDUCTED IN ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

16           (B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, THE  
17 REVIEW PANEL SHALL REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS CONDUCTED UNDER THIS  
18 SECTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE  
19 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

20 8-1407.

21           (A) ~~WHEN A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT REMAINS IN THE~~  
22 ~~HOSPITAL FOR MORE THAN 72 HOURS, THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL CONVENE~~  
23 ~~A RAPID RESPONSE PLACEMENT TEAM~~

24                   (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
25 WITHIN 48 HOURS OF BEING NOTIFIED OF A PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY PATIENT, THE  
26 COORDINATORS SHALL CONVENE A RAPID RESPONSE PLACEMENT TEAM.

27                   (2) IF THE COORDINATORS ARE NOTIFIED OF A PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY  
28 PATIENT ON A FRIDAY, THE COORDINATORS SHALL CONVENE A PLACEMENT TEAM  
29 WITHIN 72 HOURS OF BEING NOTIFIED OR EARLIER IF POSSIBLE.

1           **(3) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION PREVENTS THE COORDINATORS**  
2 **FROM TAKING STEPS TO SECURE A PLACEMENT FOR A PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY**  
3 **PATIENT BEFORE HOLDING THE INITIAL MEETING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION**  
4 **(E) OF THIS SECTION.**

5           **(B) THE PLACEMENT TEAM SHALL CONSIST OF:**

6           **(1) THE SENIOR ADVISOR, IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY;**

7           **(2) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH –**  
8 **GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

9           **~~(2)~~ (3) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IF APPLICABLE, THE**  
10 **FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHILD, DESIGNATED BY THE**  
11 **PLACEMENT MANAGER COORDINATORS:**

12           **~~(I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF 211 MARYLAND;~~**

13           **~~(H)~~ A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF**  
14 **SOCIAL SERVICES;**

15           **~~(III) IF APPLICABLE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN UNLICENSED~~**  
16 **~~SETTING WHERE A CHILD IS RESIDING; AND~~**

17           **~~(IV)~~ (II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOSPITAL WHERE THE**  
18 **CHILD IS CONSIDERED A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT.**

19           **(C) THE PLACEMENT TEAM SHALL:**

20           **(1) DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT OF A**  
21 **PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT ~~WHO HAS REMAINED IN A HOSPITAL FOR~~**  
22 **~~MORE THAN 72 HOURS; AND~~**

23           **(2) ARRANGE FOR A TEMPORARY PLACEMENT IN A LICENSED**  
24 **SETTING WHEN A PLACEMENT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, BUT A BED IS NOT**  
25 **IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.**

26           **(D) THE PLACEMENT TEAM MAY:**

27           **(1) CONDUCT IMMEDIATE CLINICAL AND PLACEMENT ASSESSMENTS;**

28           **(2) OVERRIDE LOCAL DEPARTMENT ~~PLACEMENT~~ DECISIONS, IF**  
29 **NECESSARY TO PLACE THE CHILD IN A CLINICALLY APPROPRIATE, LEAST**  
30 **RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT; AND**



1 (B) THERE IS AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MARYLAND'S SYSTEM OF CARE  
2 FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

3 (C) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING  
4 ~~INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF WORKING WITH~~  
5 ~~CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, ADVERSE CHILDHOOD~~  
6 ~~EXPERIENCES, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES~~ MEMBERS:

7 (1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S  
8 DESIGNEE;

9 (2) ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER~~ SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE  
10 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

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

13 (4) THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
14 DESIGNEE;

15 (5) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
16 DESIGNEE;

17 (6) THE MARYLAND INSURANCE COMMISSIONER, OR THE  
18 COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE;

19 (7) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE  
20 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

21 (8) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE  
22 COMMISSION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

23 (9) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL  
24 INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
25 DESIGNEE;

26 (10) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE-AUTHORIZED  
27 ADMINISTRATOR OF 2-1-1 SERVICES IN MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE  
28 GOVERNOR;

29 ~~(3)~~ (11) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE  
30 HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE;

1           ~~(4)~~ (12)       THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, OR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S  
2 DESIGNEE;

3           ~~(5)~~ (13)       THE STATE FOSTER YOUTH OMBUDSMAN; AND

4           ~~(6)~~ (14)       THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE AND  
5 KNOWLEDGE OF WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
6 CHALLENGES, ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
7 DISABILITIES, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

8                       (I)    THE SENIOR ADVISOR;

9                       (II)   ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF  
10 SOCIAL SERVICES;

11                      ~~(H)~~ (III)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND  
12 ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND YOUTH;

13                      ~~(HH)~~ (IV)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF DISABILITY RIGHTS  
14 MARYLAND;

15                      ~~(IV)~~ (V)     ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY  
16 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;

17                      ~~(V)~~ (VI)     ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND LEGAL AID;

18                      ~~(VI)~~ (VII)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COURT APPOINTED  
19 SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF MARYLAND;

20                      ~~(VII)~~ (VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL  
21 ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS – MARYLAND WHO IS A HOSPITAL-BASED  
22 CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER;

23                      ~~(VIII)~~ (IX)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER  
24 OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS;

25                      ~~(IX)~~ (X)     ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL  
26 ASSOCIATION;

27                      ~~(X)~~ (XI)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A SPECIALTY PSYCHIATRIC  
28 HOSPITAL;

1                   ~~(XI)~~ (XII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL  
2 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT;

3                   ~~(XII)~~ (XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND  
4 RESOURCE PARENT ASSOCIATION;

5                   ~~(XIII)~~ (XIV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MENTAL  
6 HEALTH ASSOCIATION;

7                   ~~(XIV)~~ (XV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A RESIDENTIAL  
8 TREATMENT PROVIDER IN THE STATE;

9                   ~~(XV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A FAMILY OF A CHILD IN FOSTER~~  
10 ~~CARE; AND~~

11                   (XVI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE  
12 STATE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

13           (D) (1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE ~~SPECIAL SECRETARY'S~~  
14 ~~DESIGNEE~~ SENIOR ADVISOR, SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

15                   (2) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL MEET QUARTERLY AT THE TIMES  
16 AND PLACES THE ADVISORY COUNCIL DETERMINES.

17                   (3) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE ADVISORY  
18 COUNCIL.

19                   ~~(4) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD JOINT MEETINGS WITH~~  
20 ~~THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES AT LEAST TWO~~  
21 ~~TIMES PER YEAR.~~

22           (E) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

23                   (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
24 ADVISORY COUNCIL; BUT

25                   (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
26 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

27           (F) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL:

28                   (1) REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT  
29 THEY FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL

1 HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING TO YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS  
2 IN THE STATE;

3 (2) ~~RECOMMEND TO THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN,~~  
4 ~~YOUTH, AND FAMILIES~~ ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO EXISTING LAWS OR  
5 REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL  
6 AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO CHILDREN IN NEED OF MEDICAL AND  
7 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME  
8 PLACEMENTS IN THE STATE;

9 (3) IDENTIFY ANY GRANT OR MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL  
10 GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, OR OTHER SOURCES THAT MAY BE  
11 AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMS RELATED TO CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME  
12 PLACEMENTS;

13 (4) ~~ASSIST ORGANIZATIONS IN APPLYING FOR GRANTS IDENTIFIED~~  
14 ~~UNDER ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION~~ RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS FOR  
15 EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND SUPPORT TO FOSTER CARE PARENTS IN THE STATE TO  
16 PREVENT DISRUPTION IN PLACEMENTS;

17 (5) EXAMINE THE NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE  
18 MODEL AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE MODEL CAN BE  
19 REPLICATED IN THE STATE IN CONSULTATION WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
20 EDUCATION OR A PRIVATE RESEARCH ENTITY WITH EXPERTISE IN THE MODEL; AND

21 (6) REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS, PROVIDE  
22 RECOMMENDATIONS IF GAPS ARE IDENTIFIED, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
23 ENSURE, IF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS NOT AVAILABLE TO MAKE MEDICAL  
24 DECISIONS OR WHILE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT  
25 AGREEMENT, ALL PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS HAVE ACCESS TO:

26 (I) LEGAL REPRESENTATION; AND

27 (II) EDUCATION SERVICES;

28 (7) REVIEW ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKGROUP ON  
29 CHILDREN IN UNLICENSED SETTINGS AND PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAYS; AND

30 (8) REVIEW BARRIERS TO CAPACITY EXPANSION, INCLUDING RATE  
31 REFORM AND INSURANCE PARITY, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

32 (G) (1) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL FORM A SUBGROUP CONSISTING  
33 OF THE MEMBERS LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(1) THROUGH (12) OF THIS  
34 SECTION.

1           **(2) THE SUBGROUP OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY CONSULT WITH**  
2 **EXPERTS AS NECESSARY, INCLUDING INSURERS, PAYORS, AND THE MARYLAND**  
3 **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4           **(3) THE SUBGROUP OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL:**

5           **(I) COMPLETE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT NUMBER OF**  
6 **LICENSED BEDS, STAFFED BEDS, AND PHYSICAL BEDS INTENDED TO SERVE THE**  
7 **NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY AGENCY, CATEGORIZED BY TYPE OF BED**  
8 **INCLUSIVE OF AGE, GENDER, DIAGNOSIS, SEVERITY, AND SPECIALTY ACCEPTED FOR**  
9 **THE FOLLOWING BED TYPES:**

10                   **1. TRADITIONAL FOSTER HOMES;**

11                   **2. PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES;**

12                   **3. GROUP HOMES;**

13                   **4. RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS;**

14                   **5. PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS;**

15 **AND**

16                   **6. RESPITE BEDS;**

17           **(II) DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC PROCESS FOR TRACKING THE**  
18 **REAL-TIME LOCATION, LENGTH OF STAY, AND DISCHARGE PLANS FOR PEDIATRIC**  
19 **HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH –**  
20 **GENERAL ARTICLE, INCLUDING YOUTH UNDER OR IN THE PROCESS OF A**  
21 **VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT;**

22           **(III) 1. DEVELOP A MODEL FOR STANDARDIZED DATA**  
23 **COLLECTION WITH MANDATED UNIFORM METRICS, INCLUDING AGE, GENDER**  
24 **IDENTITY, RACE, ETHNICITY, COUNTY OF ORIGIN, PAYOR TYPE, AND LENGTH OF**  
25 **STAY FOR PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF**  
26 **THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE, INCLUDING YOUTH UNDER OR IN THE PROCESS**  
27 **OF A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT; AND**

28                   **2. DESIGNATE AN ENTITY TO SERVE AS A CENTRAL**  
29 **REPOSITORY FOR DATA COLLECTED; AND**

1                    (IV) DEVELOP A PLAN AND IDENTIFY RESOURCES NEEDED TO  
 2 EXPAND MOBILE RESPONSE AND STABILIZATION SERVICES ACROSS THE STATE TO  
 3 ENSURE STATEWIDE ACCESS AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY 2030.

4            ~~(G)~~ (H)        ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE  
 5 ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
 6 GOVERNOR, ~~THE PLACEMENT MANAGER,~~ AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF  
 7 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

8            ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read~~  
 9 ~~as follows:~~

10                                    ~~Article Human Services~~

11            ~~SUBTITLE 15. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.~~

12            ~~§ 1501.~~

13            ~~IN THIS SUBTITLE, "INTERAGENCY COUNCIL" MEANS THE INTERAGENCY~~  
 14 ~~COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.~~

15            ~~§ 1502.~~

16            ~~(A) THERE IS AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND~~  
 17 ~~FAMILIES.~~

18            ~~(B) THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING~~  
 19 ~~REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING~~  
 20 ~~MEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE, SERVICES, OR SUPERVISION TO~~  
 21 ~~CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES:~~

22                    ~~(1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;~~

23                    ~~(2) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S~~  
 24 ~~DESIGNEE;~~

25                    ~~(3) THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES, OR THE SECRETARY'S~~  
 26 ~~DESIGNEE;~~

27                    ~~(4) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S~~  
 28 ~~DESIGNEE;~~

29                    ~~(5) THE MARYLAND INSURANCE COMMISSIONER, OR THE~~  
 30 ~~COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE;~~

1 ~~(6) THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, OR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S~~  
2 ~~DESIGNEE;~~

3 ~~(7) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE~~  
4 ~~SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;~~

5 ~~(8) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAID~~  
6 ~~PROGRAM, OR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;~~

7 ~~(9) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S~~  
8 ~~DESIGNEE;~~

9 ~~(10) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE~~  
10 ~~COMMISSION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;~~

11 ~~(11) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL~~  
12 ~~INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S~~  
13 ~~DESIGNEE;~~

14 ~~(12) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY, OR~~  
15 ~~THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;~~

16 ~~(13) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH-~~  
17 ~~GENERAL ARTICLE; AND~~

18 ~~(14) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE AUTHORIZED~~  
19 ~~ADMINISTRATOR OF 2-1-1 SERVICES IN MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE~~  
20 ~~GOVERNOR.~~

21 ~~(C) (1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S~~  
22 ~~DESIGNEE, SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL.~~

23 ~~(2) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN SHALL PROVIDE STAFF~~  
24 ~~FOR THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL.~~

25 ~~(3) THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL MEET MONTHLY AT THE~~  
26 ~~TIMES AND PLACES THAT THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL DETERMINES.~~

27 ~~§ 1503.~~

28 ~~(A) THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL:~~

1           ~~(1) COMPLETE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT NUMBER OF~~  
2 ~~LICENSED BEDS, STAFFED BEDS, AND PHYSICAL BEDS INTENDED TO SERVE THE~~  
3 ~~NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY AGENCY, CATEGORIZED BY TYPE OF BED~~  
4 ~~INCLUSIVE OF AGE, GENDER, DIAGNOSIS, SEVERITY, AND SPECIALTY ACCEPTED FOR~~  
5 ~~THE FOLLOWING BED TYPES:~~

6           ~~(I) TRADITIONAL FOSTER HOMES;~~

7           ~~(II) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES;~~

8           ~~(III) GROUP HOMES;~~

9           ~~(IV) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS;~~

10          ~~(V) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS; AND~~

11          ~~(VI) RESPITE BEDS;~~

12           ~~(2) DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC PROCESS FOR TRACKING THE~~  
13 ~~REAL TIME LOCATION, LENGTH OF STAY, AND DISCHARGE PLANS FOR PEDIATRIC~~  
14 ~~HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH~~  
15 ~~GENERAL ARTICLE, INCLUDING YOUTH UNDER OR IN THE PROCESS OF A~~  
16 ~~VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT;~~

17           ~~(3) (I) DEVELOP A MODEL FOR STANDARDIZED DATA COLLECTION~~  
18 ~~WITH MANDATED UNIFORM METRICS, INCLUDING AGE, GENDER IDENTITY, RACE,~~  
19 ~~ETHNICITY, COUNTY OF ORIGIN, PAYER TYPE, AND LENGTH OF STAY FOR PEDIATRIC~~  
20 ~~HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH~~  
21 ~~GENERAL ARTICLE, INCLUDING YOUTH UNDER OR IN THE PROCESS OF A~~  
22 ~~VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT; AND~~

23           ~~(II) DESIGNATE AN ENTITY TO SERVE AS A CENTRAL~~  
24 ~~REPOSITORY FOR DATA COLLECTED; AND~~

25           ~~(4) DEVELOP A PLAN AND IDENTIFY RESOURCES NEEDED TO EXPAND~~  
26 ~~MOBILE RESPONSE AND STABILIZATION SERVICES ACROSS THE STATE TO ENSURE~~  
27 ~~STATEWIDE ACCESS AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY 2030.~~

28           ~~(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, AND JANUARY 1, 2028, THE~~  
29 ~~INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO~~  
30 ~~THE GOVERNOR, THE PLACEMENT MANAGER, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257~~  
31 ~~OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor may transfer positions and funds appropriated for positions from the Workgroup on Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstays to the Governor's Office for Children.~~

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

On or before January 1, 2027, the Department of Human Services and the Maryland Department of Health shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the progress of capacity building and preventive services to end pediatric overstays, including:

- (1) residential treatment beds;
- (2) therapeutic foster care homes;
- (3) specialized placements for high-needs youth;
- (4) licensure of facilities and foster youth homes;
- (5) mobile crisis response;
- (6) 1915(i) waiver services;
- (7) in-home services and wraparound supports; and
- (8) necessary staffing.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act authorizes a hospital to discharge a pediatric overstay patient in a manner that is inconsistent with § 19-308.8 of the Health – General Article, State regulations governing hospital discharge, or Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services conditions of participation.

~~SECTION 7.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That ~~Section 7~~ Section 3 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, 2029, ~~Section 7~~ Section 3 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

~~SECTION 9.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in ~~Section 4~~ Sections 7 and 8 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026.