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BILL NO.: **HB 672**

TITLE: Children in Need of Assistance – Qualified Residential
Treatment Program - Definition

SPONSOR: Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request - Departmental -
Human Services)

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 13, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 672 – Children in Need of Assistance – Qualified Residential Treatment Program - Definition. This proposed legislation alters the definition of a “qualified residential treatment program” for purposes of certain provisions of law relating to the placement of children in need of assistance. If enacted, the bill would require that a program, rather than discharge planning, must meet certain license and accreditation requirements.

The main goal of HB 672 is to guarantee that State regulations comply with the 2018 Family First Prevention and Services Act so Maryland can continue to receive federal funding for child welfare programs under the new federal law. Federal funding is essential for the Department of Human Services.

By shifting the accreditation requirements to the residential treatment programs, this proposed legislation seeks to guarantee that children in need of assistance are safe while in residential treatment while also aiding in the placement of children with families.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 672. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.