

HOUSE BILL 883

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By: **Delegates Rosenberg and Hubbard**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Teen Pregnancy – Prevention – Grant and Aid Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to make
4 certain grants to certain applicants either establishing or expanding certain
5 teen pregnancy prevention programs; providing for the amount of certain
6 grants; providing for the eligibility of certain applicants; requiring certain
7 applications to be directed to a certain review panel; providing for the duties of
8 a certain review panel; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to
9 approve certain applications under certain circumstances; providing for the use
10 of certain grants; authorizing the State to recover disbursed grants under
11 certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations;
12 requiring the Department of Education and the Department of Human
13 Resources to conduct a certain study regarding the feasibility of expanding or
14 replicating a certain teen pregnancy program in Washington County; requiring
15 the Department of Education and the Department of Human Resources to
16 submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before
17 a certain date; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act;
18 and generally relating to teen pregnancy prevention programs.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Health – General

21 Section 20–1301 through 20–1304 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13.
22 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program”

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article - Health - General**

4 **SUBTITLE 13. TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 **20-1301.**

6 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO QUALIFIED
7 APPLICANTS TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AT-RISK
8 TEENAGE GIRLS FROM BECOMING PREGNANT.

9 (B) THE AMOUNT OF THE STATE GRANT FOR ANY PROGRAM SHALL BE
10 DETERMINED ON THE MERITS OF THE APPLICATION.

11 **20-1302.**

12 (A) ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GROUP OR ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHING
13 OR EXPANDING A PROGRAM TO PREVENT AT-RISK TEENAGE GIRLS FROM
14 BECOMING PREGNANT MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A STATE GRANT
15 TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE COST OF OPERATING THE PROGRAM.

16 (B) THE APPLICATION SHALL BE DIRECTED TO A REVIEW PANEL
17 ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY.

18 (C) THE REVIEW PANEL ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER
19 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DEVELOP OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR
20 REVIEWING PROGRAM APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY APPLICANTS UNDER THIS
21 SECTION AND USE THE CRITERIA TO REVIEW THE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.

22 (D) (1) THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO
23 THE SECRETARY AS TO WHICH APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE APPROVED AND FOR
24 THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO APPROVED APPLICATIONS
25 PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE ANY APPLICATION ON
27 THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE REVIEW PANEL.

28 **20-1303.**

1 **(A) STATE FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY ONLY BE**
2 **USED TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

3 **(B) (1) THE STATE MAY RECOVER FUNDS DISBURSED UNDER THIS**
4 **SUBTITLE FROM A RECIPIENT IN THE EVENT OF THE RECIPIENT'S FAILURE TO**
5 **USE THE FUNDS FOR A TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

6 **(2) THE STATE MAY RECOVER AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE**
7 **AMOUNT OF THE STATE FUNDS DISBURSED FOR THE TEEN PREGNANCY**
8 **PREVENTION PROGRAM, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE COSTS AND REASONABLE**
9 **ATTORNEY'S FEES INCURRED BY THE STATE IN RECOVERY PROCEEDINGS.**

10 **20-1304.**

11 **THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
12 **SUBTITLE.**

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

14 (a) The Department of Education and the Department of Human Resources
15 shall jointly conduct a study to determine the feasibility of expanding to or replicating
16 in Baltimore City and one other county in the State the teen pregnancy program
17 operated by the Washington County Family Support Center and the Washington
18 County Public School System.

19 (b) On or before September 30, 2008, the Department of Education and the
20 Department of Human Resources shall jointly submit to the Governor and, in
21 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, a
22 report regarding the results of the feasibility study required under subsection (a) of
23 this section including:

24 (1) a description of the current Washington County program including
25 operational costs and required personnel, supplies, and infrastructure;

26 (2) the rates of teen pregnancy in each county in the State and
27 Baltimore City;

28 (3) a proposed plan for Baltimore City and one other county with the
29 most at-risk teenage girls; and

1 (4) the recommendations of the departments.

2 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 October 1, 2007. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and,
4 at the end of September 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General
5 Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.