

CHAPTER 91

(House Bill 790)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Child Abuse Medical Providers Initiative

FOR the purpose of altering the name of a certain initiative in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; altering the duties of the Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP) Faculty; authorizing Maryland CHAMP to receive certain information from and consult with the Department; altering the name of a certain initiative that the Governor is required to include funding for in the State budget in a certain fiscal year; altering the name of a certain initiative that the Governor is required to include certain amounts for in the annual budget bill in certain fiscal years; and generally relating to the Child Abuse Medical Providers (Maryland CHAMP) Initiative in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 13–2201, 13–2202, 13–2203, 13–2204, 13–2206, and 13–2207(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 13–2207(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

13–2201.

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

(b) [“Center of Excellence”] **“CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)”** means a [local or regional multidisciplinary team of] **NETWORK OF MARYLAND** health care professionals [and health care facilities] with the expertise to [diagnose] **ADDRESS THE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS** and [treat]

TREATMENT OF child abuse and neglect WHILE WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES AND ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES, INCLUDING CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS.

(c) ["Centers of Excellence"] **"CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP) faculty"** means a core group of clinical experts, as designated by the Department, who provide training, consultation, and support for the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect to health care professionals.

(d) "Child advocacy center" means [an] **A CHILD-FOCUSED** entity within or outside a health care facility that [diagnoses] **INVESTIGATES, DIAGNOSES,** and treats [child abuse and neglect] **CHILDREN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ABUSED OR NEGLECTED THAT:**

(1) INCLUDES LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, LOCAL CRIMINAL PROSECUTORS, AND THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES; AND

(2) MAY INCLUDE CHILD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(e) "Initiative" means the Child Abuse [and Neglect Centers of Excellence] **MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP) Initiative.**

(f) "Multidisciplinary team" means a group of professionals with expertise in various health care and social service professional disciplines who provide consultation, treatment, and planning in cases of child abuse and neglect.

13-2202.

(a) There is a Child Abuse [and Neglect Centers of Excellence] **MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP) Initiative** in the Department.

(b) The purposes of the Initiative are:

(1) To improve the protection of children in the State;

(2) To recruit local physicians to gain clinical expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(3) To develop and guide the practice of local or regional multidisciplinary teams to improve the **MEDICAL** assessment and treatment of children who are the subject of a child abuse or neglect investigation or a child in need of assistance;

(4) To facilitate the appropriate prosecution of criminal child abuse and neglect; and

(5) To provide expert consultation and training to local or regional multidisciplinary teams in the diagnosis and treatment of physical child abuse and neglect and sexual abuse through teleconferencing and on-site services.

13-2203.

The [Centers of Excellence] **CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)** faculty shall:

(1) Assist local and regional jurisdictions to develop standards and protocols for the composition and operation of local or regional [Centers of Excellence] **CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)**;

(2) Provide training and consultation to local or regional [Centers of Excellence] **CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)** in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(3) [Inventory existing academic and emergency resources available for teleconferencing and facilitate the use of these resources for child abuse and neglect investigations and treatment plans; and

(4)] Provide financial support to part-time local and regional expert clinic staff for the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(4) COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL OR REGIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS AND FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAMS; AND

(5) HELP ASSURE THAT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON HOW TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO:

(I) PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TRAUMA DURING THE PROCESS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTION;

(II) MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF TIMES EACH CHILD IS INTERVIEWED AND EXAMINED; AND

(III) MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR INFLUENCING A CHILD'S STATEMENT.

13-2204.

A [Center of Excellence] **CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL PROVIDER (MARYLAND CHAMP)** may receive information from the Department and may consult with the Department on any case:

- (1) Referred from the Children in Need of Assistance program;
- (2) Concerning a child committed to the Department or a local department of social services; or
- (3) Concerning a child who is the subject of a child abuse or neglect investigation.

13-2206.

(a) In fiscal year 2007, the Governor shall include in the State budget an appropriation in the amount of \$225,000 for the Child Abuse [and Neglect Centers of Excellence] **MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)** Initiative.

(b) In each fiscal year beginning with fiscal 2008, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill submitted to the General Assembly a General Fund appropriation for the Child Abuse [and Neglect Centers of Excellence] **MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)** Initiative in an amount not less than the amount of the General Fund appropriation for the Initiative as approved in the State budget as enacted by the General Assembly for the prior fiscal year, increased by not less than the percentage by which the projected total General Fund revenues for the upcoming fiscal year exceed the revised estimate of total General Fund revenues for the current fiscal year, as contained in the report of the estimated State revenues submitted by the Board of Revenue Estimates to the Governor under § 6-106(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(c) The Office of Legislative Audits shall audit the accounts and transactions of the Child Abuse [and Neglect Centers of Excellence] **MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP)** Initiative in accordance with §§ 2-1220 through 2-1227 of the State Government Article.

13-2207.

- (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Children's Trust Fund.
- (b) There is a Children's Trust Fund.

(c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for the Child Abuse [and Neglect Centers of Excellence] **MEDICAL PROVIDERS (MARYLAND CHAMP) Initiative.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.