

Chapter 567

(Senate Bill 478)

AN ACT concerning

Residential Child Care Facilities – Incident Reporting – Interagency Workgroup

FOR the purpose of establishing a certain interagency workgroup to develop a certain uniform incident reporting system and to ~~adopt~~ recommend certain regulations; requiring the interagency workgroup to make a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally relating to an interagency workgroup on residential child care facilities and incident reporting.

Preamble

WHEREAS, The departments that license and monitor the State's residential child care facilities have competing, conflicting, overlapping, and redundant systems for incident reporting that generate thousands of incident reports each year; and

WHEREAS, It is a wasteful use of scarce resources and not in the best interest of children in out-of-home placement for departments with shared responsibility for a child to make placement or treatment decisions without knowledge of all of the relevant incident reports that are generated on a particular child; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile Services, and Department of Human Resources, in conjunction with licensed providers of residential child care services, shall establish an interagency workgroup to:

(1) develop a uniform reporting system to be used by any agency in the State that licenses or purchases care and services for children who are placed in residential facilities licensed by the State;

(2) ~~adopt~~ recommend regulations requiring interagency sharing of incident reports when more than one department has responsibility for the child who is the subject of the incident report; and

(3) ~~adopt~~ recommend regulations requiring any department that licenses or monitors residential child care facilities to adhere to specific incident reporting policies and practices.

(b) On or before September 1, 2011, the interagency workgroup established under subsection (a) of this section shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office for Children, the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.