

often have no place to live. They have no independent source of income and as a result are economically dependent on their abusing spouses.

The General Assembly further finds and declares that until recently, these battered spouses have been ignored. As a result, there is a lack of quality emergency public or private housing available to provide a place to live for these homeless victims and their children.

The intention of this subtitle is to establish a [model shelter home] PROGRAM to provide necessary temporary housing for those battered spouses and their children made homeless by the abuse.

103.

(A) The Secretary of Human Resources shall establish [and administer] a program to assist battered spouses and their children. As one component of the State program, a shelter shall be established in a major population center of the State and shall serve the surrounding area. It is the purpose of the program to provide battered spouses and their children, in each geographical region of the State, as funds are provided in the budget, temporary shelter, or assistance in obtaining shelter, counseling, information, referral, and rehabilitation.

[(a)] (B) The following requirements govern [each] THE shelter[;] ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER SHELTER THAT IS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM:

(1) The shelter shall provide battered spouses and their children with a temporary residence and necessary [counseling] COUNSELING.

(2) The Social Services Administration shall supervise each shelter home.

(3) The Social Services Administration shall establish standards of care and admission policies. The Administration shall monitor the operation of each shelter home and annually evaluate its effectiveness.

(4) THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SHALL BY RULE AND REGULATION SET CHARGES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY EACH SHELTER HOME.

[(4)] (5) Each shelter home is subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the Social Services Administration. The home shall accept, from the police and other referral sources in the community, battered spouses and their children for temporary shelter. Housing may be provided under this subtitle only if the applicant for housing is a resident of Maryland at the time application for housing is made.