

physicians have been unsuccessful. There is no hospital or group practice operating in the county. Emergency work is handled at hospitals 10 to 30 miles away. There are five practicing dentists, which is about half of the required number for the population base.

The Caroline County School System serves approximately 4,700 students. The Caroline County Health Department administers the School Health Program. There are currently four Community Health Nurses and three Health Aides assigned to the nine schools in the county. Before February, 1978, nurses staffed the two middle and two high schools. Since 1978, the nurses have gradually assumed duties in the five elementary schools. Parents have been more receptive to school health services than to child health clinic services, even though the child health clinics are the only sources for well-child care in the county.

The health problems of the Caroline County school population are numerous. Twelve and one-half percent of live births in 1975 were to mothers aged 17 or younger. There is an estimated 80-97 percent rate of dental decay. There are no available statistics on mental health problems, however, 146 cases were handled by the Juvenile Services Administration within the county in 1976. Twelve and one-half percent of the school population receives special education assistance. From July 1, 1977 through December 31, 1977 only 33 children between the ages of 6 and 20 years received complete early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment programs despite the fact that 870 were eligible; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Education

7-413.

(A) (1) THERE IS A SCHOOL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IMPLEMENT A MODEL PROGRAM IN TWO AREAS OF THIS STATE IN WHICH PORTIONS OF THE POPULATION CURRENTLY ARE UNDERSERVED.

(3) THE MODEL PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO:

(I) IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN THIS STATE; AND

(II) DEVELOP THROUGH EXPERIENCE AN APPROPRIATE AND FEASIBLE METHODOLOGY TO ASSURE THAT HEALTH RELATED IMPAIRMENTS TO LEARNING ARE IDENTIFIED AND TREATED; AND