

Section 128 and 129 to be under the new subtitle
 "Respite Care for Handicapped Developmentally
 Disabled Persons"
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1979 Replacement Volume and 1980 Supplement)

Preamble

The General Assembly hereby finds that the availability of respite care services is crucial to the continued well-being of severely-handicapped developmentally disabled children and adults, their families, relatives, and their existing service providers. The existence of respite care services, temporary, scheduled care for severely-handicapped developmentally disabled children and adults, recognizes the right of a handicapped developmentally disabled child to be raised in a family or family-like environment. For severely handicapped developmentally disabled adults, respite care allows and promotes greater independence. For parents, guardians, and relatives of severely---handicapped developmentally disabled children and adults, respite care provides trained relief, whether scheduled or on an emergency basis, that allows a period of rest and renewal. For professionals, respite care services provide a service tailored to the needs of the handicapped developmentally disabled individual that in turn prevents having to resort to more costly service options such as State residential placement.

The General Assembly therefore finds that existing respite care services need to be continued. In addition, new respite care services must be developed to equalize the availability of respite care throughout Maryland. Finally, that respite care is an essential human service appropriately provided through existing human service programs; 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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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 88A - Social Services Administration

RESPITE CARE FOR HANDICAPPED DEVELOPMENTALLY
 DISABLED PERSONS

128.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "RESPITE CARE" OR "RESPITE CARE SERVICES" MEANS SHORT-TERM CARE, INCLUDING IN-HOME CARE, OF INDIVIDUALS WITH