

(B) THE SECRETARY MAY CONTRACT WITH A NONPUBLIC PERSON TO OPERATE A GROUP HOME FOR NONRETARDED DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THAT IS ACQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

Part III. Public Group Homes FOR MENTALLY RETARDED INDIVIDUALS.

7-317.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) There is a need for public group homes for those mentally retarded individuals whose development would be enhanced by living in an appropriate, community based, public group home instead of a large State institution or other similar public facility;

(2) These community based, public group homes are necessary components in meeting the residential needs of mentally retarded individuals; and

(3) To assure, as far as possible, that a community will accept a public group home FOR MENTALLY RETARDED INDIVIDUALS, the public group home should be located:

(i) After consultation with the local government;

(ii) With State financial and technical support; and

(iii) In a manner consistent with the principles of normalization and Statewide standards.

7-318.

(a) The Secretary shall adopt appropriate rules and regulations for establishing, licensing, and operating public group homes FOR MENTALLY RETARDED INDIVIDUALS.

(b) (1) These rules and regulations shall provide for consideration of:

[(1)](I) The number of individuals who inappropriately live in large State facilities but could be served best in the community;

[(2)](II) Historic information;

[(3)](III) Reasonable projections;

[(4)](IV) Availability of private group homes FOR MENTALLY RETARDED INDIVIDUALS to meet the projected need; and