

1- ~~(PKU) Hereditary hereditary~~ metabolic disorders
~~(including---Mental---Retardation)~~ including PKU, and
Hypothyroidism--

2- ~~General vision impairment~~; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland enacted a law in 1982 providing the parents of children with any one of 12 sentinel birth defects with information and providing numerical information to the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

WHEREAS, Early screening for auditory defects is not currently provided for despite the fact that auditory defects have a higher incidence than those which are presently mandated; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 6.8 percent of the approximately 61,000 annual live births in this State will eventually suffer a hearing impairment; and

WHEREAS, With early identification and follow-up of a child's hearing impairment, an effective communication system can be developed, significantly enhancing the quality of a child's life and his adult potential, and therefore reducing the potential burden to society; and

WHEREAS, The handicap of the majority of hearing-impaired children is one of communication and not of intellect and, therefore, they are capable, with appropriate and timely intervention, of becoming gainfully employed, productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the direct assistance to the children identified, early identification will provide valuable information which can be used by the State for future planning; and

WHEREAS, Fifteen other states have already established early identification and follow-up systems; now, therefore, be it

~~RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene develop and implement procedures for the identification, for present or potential hearing impairment at birth and follow-up of infants who have or may develop a hearing impairment, such procedures are to be in accordance with the guidelines established by the 1982 Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, and be it further~~

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene develop procedures for a program for the identification of present or potential hearing impairment at birth and follow-up for infants who have or may develop a hearing impairment; and be it further