

Department to adopt regulations to implement the Program and monitor Program participants; authorizing the Director to make grants to local areas to carry out the provisions of this Act; establishing a list of services to be provided under this Act; requiring that Program participants be paid not less than the federal minimum wage; setting a certain time limitation for participation in the Program; establishing certain eligibility requirements for participation; defining certain terms; and generally relating to establishing the Maryland Summer Youth Connection Program under the Division of Employment and Training in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

BY adding to

Article – Labor and Employment

Section 11-602

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to enable the adolescent children of Maryland's poor and working-poor families, especially at-risk 14- to 15-year-olds who have little or no experience with the attitudes, expectations, and social/occupational skills necessary to function competitively as part of Maryland's workforce, and to obtain a paid summer job, practical on-the-job experience in meeting employer expectations, and familiarity with the daily demands of a work environment; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide youth from low-income or working-poor families who have limited or no access to private sector summer employment due to age, lack of transportation, disabilities, or other special needs, with the opportunity to earn needed income at a meaningful summer job; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide economically depressed communities the opportunity to maintain neighborhood stability by providing productive activities for their teenaged children during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to allow State and local governments, private nonprofit agencies, and community organizations to expand their supply of summer workers and to serve as on-the-job mentors to disadvantaged teens; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly declares that it is necessary to provide at-risk teens with a "first job" in order to foster the development of a work ethic and a commitment to self-sufficiency through employment; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: