

include certain mental health programs; requiring the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program to develop and implement certain mental health programs; authorizing the State Department of Education to assist in implementing certain programs; requiring the State Department of Education to seek certain federal funds for Youth Suicide Prevention School Programs; and generally relating to the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program and mental health programs.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Education  
 Section 7-504 and 7-505  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

#### Preamble

WHEREAS, More children and young adults die from suicide each year than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic lung disease combined; and

WHEREAS, More people die from suicide than murder and more than 4,000 young people take their lives each year, making suicide the third leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 24 years; and

WHEREAS, More than 800,000 teens in the United States suffer from depression each year and more than 500,000 make a suicide attempt requiring medical attention; and

~~WHEREAS, Many suicides are preventable through programs such as the Columbia University TeenScreen program, peer to peer support programs such as Active Minds, Inc. and high school psychology clubs; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The ultimate goal of TeenScreen is to make mental health screening as accepted and routinely implemented as school based screenings for vision and hearing and pediatrician screenings for tuberculosis and scoliiosis; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Columbia University TeenScreen program provides, at no charge, education, staff training, screening tools, technical support, and consultation in the development and implementation of a screening program; and~~

~~WHEREAS, President Bush established the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health to evaluate and address problems in the mental health service delivery system in the United States. On July 22, 2003, the Commission found that public schools are in a key position to identify mental health problems early and to provide a link to appropriate services. The Commission further determined that early detection, assessment, and links to treatment are key to preventing many mental health problems from worsening; and~~