

contract of these services at the Regional Institute in Montgomery County.

(ii) If the local educational agency declines to contract, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene may operate an education program directly or contract with another qualified provider.

(4) Until a separate program is established for each county, children from Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties may be served by the Regional Institute in Prince George's County.

(5) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall establish guidelines in cooperation with the local board of education for the operation of the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents in Prince George's County.

10-406.1.

(A) THE REGIONAL INSTITUTES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN BALTIMORE, MONTGOMERY, AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES SHALL BE COMPARABLE IN PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES BY JULY 1, 1986 1989.

(B) THE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS OF AN INSTITUTE MAY NOT BE REDUCED TO ACHIEVE COMPARABILITY.

(C) IN NO EVENT SHALL THE LEVEL OF STATE FUNDING PROVIDED OR NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED TO ANY REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS BE REDUCED IN ORDER TO ATTAIN COMPARABILITY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report on the progress toward comparability to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on January 1, 1985 and January 1, 1986. A final report on the achievement of comparability shall be issued to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on July 1, 1986 1989.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1984.

Approved May 15, 1984.

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