

It is the policy of the State:

(1) To promote, protect, and preserve the well-being and general welfare of children and adolescents who suffer from mental disorders.

(2) To encourage the full development of the ability and potential of each emotionally disturbed child and adolescent in the State.

(3) To provide appropriate residential services for those emotionally disturbed children and adolescents who, because of their mental disorders require residential and therapeutic services not available in the home.

(4) To provide homelike and community-based, private therapeutic group homes for children and adolescents who would otherwise be inappropriately confined to State residential institutions and centers.

(5) To provide homelike and community-based, private therapeutic group homes for children and adolescents who would otherwise reside in out-of-State facilities.

(6) To protect the rights of emotionally disturbed children and adolescents in planning and providing residential services.

(7) To promote and provide for the development, maintenance, and evaluation of private therapeutic group homes for children and adolescents; now, therefore,

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

Article - Health - General

10-101.

(i) "Treatment" means any professional care or attention that is given in a facility [or], PLACE PRIVATE THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOME FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, OR Veterans' Administration hospital to improve or to prevent the worsening of a mental disorder.

10-902.

(a) (1) In accordance with the State budget and the rules and regulations that the Secretary adopts, the Secretary may make grants from or agreements for the use of State and federal funds to help public agencies or nonprofit organizations establish and operate local mental health programs to provide the following:

(i) Inpatient services.