

CHAPTER 532

(House Bill 1249)

AN ACT concerning

Juveniles – Balanced and Restorative Justice

FOR the purpose of altering the express purposes of certain laws pertaining to juveniles who commit delinquent acts; providing that the fundamental purpose of these laws is to ensure that the juvenile justice system incorporates the philosophy of restorative justice and balances principles of public safety, accountability and competency development; expanding a certain provision relating to the responsibility of parents of children in need of assistance to make it applicable to the parents of children in need of supervision and the parents of delinquent children; and generally relating to children in need of assistance or supervision and children who commit delinquent acts.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-802

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-802.

(a) The purposes of this subtitle are:

[(2)](1) [To remove from children committing delinquent acts the taint of criminality and the consequences of criminal behavior;] TO ENSURE THAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM BALANCES THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMMITTED DELINQUENT ACTS:

(I) PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE PROTECTION OF THE COMMUNITY;

(II) ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE CHILD TO THE VICTIM AND THE COMMUNITY FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED; AND

(III) COMPETENCY AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST CHILDREN IN BECOMING RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;

(2) TO HOLD PARENTS OF CHILDREN FOUND TO BE DELINQUENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD'S BEHAVIOR AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE VICTIM AND THE COMMUNITY;