

using certain data and information and to determine the amount of annual rate increases necessary to eliminate a certain disparity amount in a certain manner; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring that certain rate increases be used in a certain manner; providing for the construction of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to community providers of services to developmentally disabled individuals and rate increases.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 7-307

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has a responsibility to ensure that the community-based services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities are of high quality and comply with all regulations; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is concerned that the reimbursement rates for community providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities are insufficient to adequately compensate community direct service workers; and

WHEREAS, The inadequacy of the reimbursement rates for community providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities results in a wage disparity between community direct service workers and State employees in comparable positions in State residential facilities; and

WHEREAS, The inadequacy of the reimbursement rates for community providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities has been ongoing and unresolved for many years and there is a need to address the issue in a comprehensive, equitable, and objective manner; now, therefore,

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

Article - Health - General

7-307.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "COMMUNITY PROVIDER" MEANS A COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCY OR PROGRAM FUNDED BY:

(i) THE ADMINISTRATION TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; ~~OR~~

~~(ii) THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS.~~