

WHEREAS, 24% of the young children receiving early intervention through the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program in 2000 required no special education services at age three; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

8-416.

[(a) The Department shall be the lead agency for supervising and monitoring a statewide, community-based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, and their families.]

(A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A STATEWIDE, COMMUNITY-BASED INTERAGENCY SYSTEM OF COMPREHENSIVE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE INFANTS AND TODDLERS, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 2, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE THE LEAD AGENCY FOR SUPERVISING AND MONITORING THE PROGRAM.

[(b)](C) The [interagency system] PROGRAM shall include the early intervention services provided or supervised by THE DEPARTMENT AND the State Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene INCLUDING THE PROGRAM FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED INFANTS ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE[, Human Resources, and Juvenile Justice,] AND HUMAN RESOURCES, and the Office for Children, Youth, and Families.

[(c)](D) The [interagency system of early intervention services] PROGRAM shall be administered in accord with the applicable requirements of [Federal Public Law 99-457] PART C OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT and other applicable federal and State laws.

[(d)](E) An interagency coordinating council shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall:

(1) Advise and assist the Department in the supervision and monitoring of the [interagency system of early intervention services] PROGRAM; and

(2) Submit an annual report to the Governor and the federal government.

[(e)](F) Local lead agencies shall be established or designated in each county and Baltimore City to administer the [interagency system of early intervention services] PROGRAM in their subdivision, under the direction of the Department.

[(f)](G) (1) In each county, the county executive or county commissioners, as appropriate, or in Baltimore City, the Mayor shall establish a local interagency