

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

Article - Human Services

9-240.1.

(A) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A VOLUNTEER MENTOR FOR EACH CHILD IN THE STATE WHO IS IN DETENTION, AS DEFINED IN § 3-8A-01(N) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE, OR HAS SPENT AT LEAST 30 DAYS IN A COMMITTED PLACEMENT.

~~(2) IN ASSIGNING A MENTOR, THE PROGRAM SHALL TRY TO CHOOSE A MENTOR THAT CAN STAY WITH THE CHILD FROM THE INITIAL DETENTION THROUGH ANY AFTERCARE THAT IS REQUIRED.~~

(2) (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE CALLED "MARYLAND RISING".

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION TO A CHILD:

(1) TO DECREASE THE CHILD'S DELINQUENT OR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR IN THE COMMUNITY; AND

(2) TO INCREASE THE CHILD'S POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING A PRODUCTIVE, SUCCESSFUL MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

(C) (1) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF STATE AGENCIES, COMMUNITY AGENCIES, CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS, SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGE STUDENT GROUPS, AND OTHER GROUPS WHO WILL RECRUIT VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR ~~CHILDREN IN DETENTION~~ THE PROGRAM.

(2) A MENTOR SHALL HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE CHILD AND MAY PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TO THE CHILD:

(I) INFORMAL COUNSELING;

(II) TUTORING;

(III) ASSISTING THE CHILD WITH LIFE SKILLS TRAINING;