

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that the separation of newborn infants from their mothers while their mothers are in prison can cause serious psychological damage to the infants; and

WHEREAS, Infancy is a vital time for development of intellectual, emotional, and social skills and strong, positive family relationships; and

WHEREAS, It is important to encourage bonding between infants and mothers, consistent with the interests of public safety and justice; now, therefore, be it

~~RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall develop a comprehensive plan for the care and treatment of female offenders and their children; and be it further~~

~~RESOLVED, That the plan shall be developed in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Justice Administration, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Office for Children, Youth, and Families, the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association, and Maryland Correctional Institution Women; and be it further~~

~~RESOLVED, That this plan shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 1992; and be it further~~

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That there be established a Task Force on Female Inmates and Their Newborn Children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Task Force is to develop:

(1) A comprehensive plan for the care and treatment of female inmates incarcerated in a State correctional institution and their children; and

(2) Within the comprehensive plan developed, a program for the Division of Correction that would encourage parent-child bonding for female inmates who give birth while incarcerated in a State correctional institution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of:

(1) 1 member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(2) 1 member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(3) 11 members, appointed by the Governor, as follows:

1. 1 representative from the Governor's Office of Justice Administration;

2. 1 representative from the Department of Human Resources;

3. 1 representative from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;