

~~by a certain date; requiring certain residential and nonresidential child care programs and certain nonpublic general education schools to submit proposed rate changes within a certain time frame before the rate changes take effect; authorizing the Special Secretary to audit certain residential or nonresidential child care programs~~ State agencies to redesign the rate setting structure for private residential or nonresidential child care programs and certain nonpublic general education schools; requiring certain State agencies to develop a certain plan; making the Department of Education the lead agency in redesigning a certain rate setting structure; making this Act an emergency measure; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the per-child rates per service set by for certain residential or nonresidential child care programs.

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article 40D—Office for Children, Youth, and Families~~

~~Section 39 to be under the new subtitle “Child Care Programs”~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, The current practice of rate setting by the Governor’s Office for Children, Youth, and Families for rates paid to providers of private residential child care programs has not produced a system to encourage efficiency and the development of additional resources through payments to those providers; and

WHEREAS, A process for setting rates for certain nonresidential programs and services for children has not been established; and

WHEREAS, Certain historic providers in the system are subject to rates below cost, while certain new providers are funded at full cost; and

~~WHEREAS, Rates paid for services purchased pursuant to this subtitle should be determined by competition in the private marketplace; and~~

~~WHEREAS, A system which permits competition in the marketplace will help to ensure high quality, cost-effective programs and services and will permit providers of residential and nonresidential child care programs and nonpublic general education schools to have the flexibility to respond quickly to the changing needs of purchasers; and~~

WHEREAS, The ~~Special Secretary~~ Subcabinet Fund for Children, Youth, and Families should establish a process sufficiently flexible to ensure that providers can meet the needs of children and families referred to the providers; now, therefore,

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