

# HOUSE BILL 1559

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By: **The Speaker**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations and Health

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstay Patients –**  
3 **Placement**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the placement of children in unlicensed settings under the  
5 out-of-home placement program required to be established by the Social Services  
6 Administration; altering the duties of the pediatric hospital overstay coordinators;  
7 establishing the Child and Youth Placement Review Panel in the Governor's Office  
8 for Children with the Placement Manager as its head; requiring the Placement  
9 Manager to convene a Rapid Response Placement Team under certain  
10 circumstances; establishing the Advisory Council on Maryland's System of Care for  
11 Children, Youth, and Families; establishing the Interagency Council on Children,  
12 Youth, and Families; authorizing the Governor to transfer positions and funds  
13 appropriated for positions from the Workgroup on Children in Unlicensed Settings  
14 and Pediatric Hospital Overstays to the Office; and generally relating to children in  
15 unlicensed settings and pediatric hospital overstay patients.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Family Law  
18 Section 5–525(a) and (c)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article – Family Law  
23 Section 5–525(b)(1)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
27 Article – Health – General  
28 Section 19–388

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
4 Article – Health – General  
5 Section 19–390  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Human Services  
10 Section 8–101(a), (j), (m), and (q)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Human Services  
15 Section 8–1401 through 8–1408 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. Child and  
16 Youth Placement Review”; and 8–1501 through 8–1503 to be under the new  
17 subtitle “Subtitle 15. Interagency Council on Children, Youth, and Families”  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Family Law**

23 5–525.

24 (a) (1) In this section[, “disability”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
25 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

26 **(2) (I) “DISABILITY” means:**

27 [(i)] **1.** a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits  
28 one or more of an individual’s major life activities;

29 [(ii)] **2.** a record of having a physical or mental impairment that  
30 substantially limits one or more of an individual’s major life activities; or

31 [(iii)] **3.** being regarded as having a physical or mental impairment  
32 that substantially limits one or more of an individual’s major life activities.

33 [(2)] **(II) “Disability” shall be construed in accordance with the ADA**  
34 **Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110–325.**

1           **(3) (I) “UNLICENSED SETTING” MEANS A SETTING FOR AN**  
2 **OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT THAT IS NOT LICENSED.**

3           **(II) “UNLICENSED SETTING” INCLUDES:**

4                   **1. A HOTEL, MOTEL, OR SHORT-TERM RENTAL;**

5                   **2. A SHELTER DESIGNATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A**  
6 **CHILD WHO HAS RUN AWAY OR WHO IS HOMELESS; AND**

7                   **3. AN OFFICE BUILDING OR OTHER NONRESIDENTIAL**  
8 **ENVIRONMENT.**

9           **(III) “UNLICENSED SETTING” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

10                   **1. THE VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT OF A FORMER CINA;**

11 **OR**

12                   **2. THE PLACEMENT OF A CHILD WITH:**

13                   **A. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A KINSHIP CAREGIVER OR**  
14 **FOSTER PARENT OR WHO IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING TO BE A KINSHIP**  
15 **CAREGIVER OR FOSTER PARENT; OR**

16                   **B. A PARENT, INCLUDING IN A FAMILY-BASED**  
17 **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SETTING.**

18           (b) (1) The Administration shall establish a program of out-of-home  
19 placement for minor children:

20                   (i) who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period  
21 of not more than 180 days, by a parent or legal guardian under a voluntary placement  
22 agreement;

23                   (ii) who are abused, abandoned, neglected, or dependent, if a  
24 juvenile court:

25                   1. has determined that continued residence in the child’s  
26 home is contrary to the child’s welfare; and

27                   2. has committed the child to the custody or guardianship of  
28 a local department; or

(iii) who, with the approval of the Administration, are placed in an out-of-home placement by a local department under a voluntary placement agreement subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(c) **(1) [In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN** establishing the out-of-home placement program the Administration shall:

**[(1)] (I)** provide time-limited family reunification services to a child placed in an out-of-home placement and to the parents or guardian of the child, in order to facilitate the child's safe and appropriate reunification within a timely manner;

**[(2)] (II)** concurrently develop and implement a permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child; and

**[(3)] (III)** provide training on an annual basis for the staff at each local department who administer requests for voluntary placement agreements for children with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses under subsection (b) of this section.

**(2) THE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROHIBIT THE PLACEMENT OF A CHILD IN AN UNLICENSED SETTING.**

#### **Article – Health – General**

19–388.

(a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Coordinators” means the pediatric overstay coordinator in the Department and the pediatric overstay coordinator in the Department of Human Services.

(c) “Pediatric hospital overstay patient” means a patient under the age of 22 years who remains in an inpatient unit or emergency department of a hospital for more than 48 hours after being medically cleared for discharge or transfer.

19–390.

(a) The Department and the Department of Human Services shall establish a pediatric hospital overstay coordinator within each department.

(b) The coordinators shall act in the best interest of a pediatric overstay patient by **[coordinating]:**



1 (q) "Special Secretary" means the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for  
2 Children.

3 **SUBTITLE 14. CHILD AND YOUTH PLACEMENT REVIEW.**

4 **8-1401.**

5 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
6 INDICATED.

7 (B) (1) "CHILD IN AN UNLICENSED SETTING" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL  
8 UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS:

9 (I) IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT WHO IS RESIDING IN A  
10 HOTEL, AN OFFICE BUILDING, A SHELTER, OR ANY OTHER UNLICENSED SETTING; OR

11 (II) WHO IS A PEDIATRIC OVERSTAY PATIENT.

12 (2) "CHILD IN AN UNLICENSED SETTING" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN  
13 INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 22 YEARS WHO IS RECEIVING A SELF-INDEPENDENT  
14 LIVING STIPEND, LIVING WITH KIN AWAITING APPROVAL FOR PLACEMENT, OR ON  
15 AFTERCARE WITH A PARENT.

16 (C) "PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT" HAS THE MEANING STATED  
17 IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

18 (D) "PLACEMENT MANAGER" MEANS THE PLACEMENT MANAGER OF THE  
19 CHILD AND YOUTH PLACEMENT REVIEW PANEL.

20 (E) "PLACEMENT TEAM" MEANS THE RAPID RESPONSE PLACEMENT TEAM.

21 (F) "REVIEW PANEL" MEANS THE CHILD AND YOUTH PLACEMENT REVIEW  
22 PANEL.

23 **8-1402.**

24 **THERE IS A CHILD AND YOUTH PLACEMENT REVIEW PANEL IN THE OFFICE.**

25 **8-1403.**

26 (A) (1) **THE HEAD OF THE REVIEW PANEL IS THE PLACEMENT MANAGER.**

27 (2) **THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE**  
28 **GOVERNOR.**

1           **(3) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE**  
2 **GOVERNOR.**

3           **(B) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL DEVOTE FULL-TIME TO THE DUTIES**  
4 **OF THE OFFICE.**

5           **(C) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER IS ENTITLED TO:**

6           **(1) COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET; AND**

7           **(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE**  
8 **TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

9           **(D) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL:**

10           **(1) SERVE AS THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL**  
11 **OVERSTAY COORDINATORS;**

12           **(2) OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE REVIEW PANEL TO ENSURE THE**  
13 **PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN**  
14 **IN UNLICENSED SETTINGS IN THE STATE; AND**

15           **(3) KEEP THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE REVIEW PANEL.**

16 **8-1404.**

17           **(A) THE REVIEW PANEL CONSISTS OF:**

18           **(1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

19           **(2) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
20 **DESIGNEE;**

21           **(3) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE**  
22 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

23           **(4) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER; AND**

24           **(5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:**

25           **(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF**  
26 **SOCIAL SERVICES;**

1 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF 211 MARYLAND;

2 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP WITH  
3 EXPERTISE IN FOSTER CARE;

4 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LEGAL ADVOCACY GROUP WITH  
5 EXPERTISE IN FOSTER CARE;

6 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND RESOURCE  
7 PARENT ASSOCIATION WHO HAS LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH FOSTER CARE;

8 (VI) ONE CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER;

9 (VII) ONE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER;

10 (VIII) TWO LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS WITH  
11 EXPERTISE IN TRAUMA, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING IN  
12 CHILD AND ADOLESCENT CARE AND FAMILY CARE; AND

13 (IX) ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE STATE  
14 FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

15 (B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE  
16 REVIEW PANEL SHALL REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL, ETHNIC, CULTURAL,  
17 AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

18 (C) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT A MEETING SHALL  
19 CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.

20 (D) THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL MEET MONTHLY AT THE TIMES AND PLACES  
21 THE REVIEW PANEL DETERMINES.

22 8-1405.

23 (A) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE  
24 REVIEW PANEL.

25 (B) A MEMBER OF THE REVIEW PANEL:

26 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE REVIEW  
27 PANEL; BUT

1           **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**  
2 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

3           **(C) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE REVIEW PANEL.**

4 **8-1406.**

5           **THE REVIEW PANEL SHALL:**

6           **(1) ANALYZE ANY INSTANCE INVOLVING A CHILD IN AN UNLICENSED**  
7 **SETTING; AND**

8           **(2) SUPPORT PLACEMENT EFFORTS INVOLVING A CHILD IDENTIFIED**  
9 **UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION BY REFERRING THE CHILD TO:**

10                   **(I) LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES;**

11                   **(II) PUBLIC OR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAMS;**

12                   **(III) A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OPERATED BY OR UNDER**  
13 **CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES;**

14                   **(IV) A FOSTER CARE HOME APPROVED BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT**  
15 **OF SOCIAL SERVICES;**

16                   **(V) A TREATMENT FOSTER CARE HOME;**

17                   **(VI) THE PLACEMENT TEAM; OR**

18                   **(VII) ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITY TO SUPPORT THE**  
19 **PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD.**

20 **8-1407.**

21           **(A) WHEN A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT REMAINS IN THE**  
22 **HOSPITAL FOR MORE THAN 72 HOURS, THE PLACEMENT MANAGER SHALL CONVENE**  
23 **A RAPID RESPONSE PLACEMENT TEAM.**

24           **(B) THE PLACEMENT TEAM SHALL CONSIST OF:**

25                   **(1) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH -**  
26 **GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

1           **(2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, DESIGNATED BY THE PLACEMENT**  
2 **MANAGER:**

3                   **(I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF 211 MARYLAND;**

4                   **(II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF**  
5 **SOCIAL SERVICES;**

6                   **(III) IF APPLICABLE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN UNLICENSED**  
7 **SETTING WHERE A CHILD IS RESIDING; AND**

8                   **(IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOSPITAL WHERE THE CHILD IS**  
9 **CONSIDERED A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT.**

10           **(C) THE PLACEMENT TEAM SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE**  
11 **APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT OF A PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENT WHO HAS**  
12 **REMAINED IN A HOSPITAL FOR MORE THAN 72 HOURS.**

13           **(D) THE PLACEMENT TEAM MAY:**

14                   **(1) CONDUCT IMMEDIATE CLINICAL AND PLACEMENT ASSESSMENTS;**

15                   **(2) OVERRIDE LOCAL DEPARTMENT PLACEMENT DECISIONS, IF**  
16 **NECESSARY; AND**

17                   **(3) SECURE IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT IN AVAILABLE LICENSED**  
18 **SETTINGS.**

19           **(E) WHEN A PLACEMENT TEAM IS CONVENED, THE PLACEMENT TEAM**  
20 **SHALL MEET EACH DAY UNTIL A PLACEMENT FOR THE CHILD IS LOCATED.**

21 **8-1408.**

22           **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ADVISORY COUNCIL” MEANS THE ADVISORY**  
23 **COUNCIL ON MARYLAND’S SYSTEM OF CARE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**  
24 **FAMILIES.**

25           **(B) THERE IS AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MARYLAND’S SYSTEM OF CARE**  
26 **FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.**

27           **(C) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING**  
28 **INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF WORKING WITH**

1 CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, ADVERSE CHILDHOOD  
2 EXPERIENCES, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

3 (1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S  
4 DESIGNEE;

5 (2) THE PLACEMENT MANAGER;

6 (3) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH -  
7 GENERAL ARTICLE;

8 (4) THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, OR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S  
9 DESIGNEE;

10 (5) THE FOSTER YOUTH OMBUDSMAN; AND

11 (6) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

12 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF  
13 SOCIAL SERVICES;

14 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION  
15 OF RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND YOUTH;

16 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF DISABILITY RIGHTS MARYLAND;

17 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL  
18 HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;

19 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND LEGAL AID;

20 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COURT APPOINTED  
21 SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF MARYLAND;

22 (VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
23 SOCIAL WORKERS - MARYLAND WHO IS A HOSPITAL-BASED CLINICAL SOCIAL  
24 WORKER;

25 (VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF  
26 THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS;

27 (IX) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL  
28 ASSOCIATION;

1 (X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A SPECIALTY PSYCHIATRIC  
2 HOSPITAL;

3 (XI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL  
4 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT;

5 (XII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND RESOURCE  
6 PARENT ASSOCIATION;

7 (XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MENTAL  
8 HEALTH ASSOCIATION;

9 (XIV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT  
10 PROVIDER IN THE STATE;

11 (XV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A FAMILY OF A CHILD IN FOSTER  
12 CARE; AND

13 (XVI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE  
14 STATE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

15 (D) (1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S  
16 DESIGNEE, SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

17 (2) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL MEET QUARTERLY AT THE TIMES  
18 AND PLACES THE ADVISORY COUNCIL DETERMINES.

19 (3) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE ADVISORY  
20 COUNCIL.

21 (4) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD JOINT MEETINGS WITH  
22 THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES AT LEAST TWO  
23 TIMES PER YEAR.

24 (E) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

25 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
26 ADVISORY COUNCIL; BUT

27 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
28 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

1           **(F) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL:**

2                   **(1) REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT**  
3 **THEY FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL**  
4 **HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING TO YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS**  
5 **IN THE STATE;**

6                   **(2) RECOMMEND TO THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN,**  
7 **YOUTH, AND FAMILIES ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO EXISTING LAWS OR**  
8 **REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL**  
9 **AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO CHILDREN IN NEED OF MEDICAL AND**  
10 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME**  
11 **PLACEMENTS IN THE STATE;**

12                   **(3) IDENTIFY ANY GRANT OR MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL**  
13 **GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, OR OTHER SOURCES THAT MAY BE**  
14 **AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMS RELATED TO CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME**  
15 **PLACEMENTS;**

16                   **(4) ASSIST ORGANIZATIONS IN APPLYING FOR GRANTS IDENTIFIED**  
17 **UNDER ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**

18                   **(5) EXAMINE THE NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE**  
19 **MODEL AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE MODEL CAN BE**  
20 **REPLICATED IN THE STATE; AND**

21                   **(6) REVIEW EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS, PROVIDE**  
22 **RECOMMENDATIONS IF GAPS ARE IDENTIFIED, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO**  
23 **ENSURE, IF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS NOT AVAILABLE TO MAKE MEDICAL**  
24 **DECISIONS OR WHILE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT**  
25 **AGREEMENT, ALL PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS HAVE ACCESS TO:**

26                           **(I) LEGAL REPRESENTATION; AND**

27                           **(II) EDUCATION SERVICES.**

28                   **(G) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE**  
29 **ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE**  
30 **GOVERNOR, THE PLACEMENT MANAGER, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF**  
31 **THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

32                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
33 as follows:

## Article – Human Services

## SUBTITLE 15. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

## 8–1501.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “INTERAGENCY COUNCIL” MEANS THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

## 8–1502.

(A) THERE IS AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

(B) THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE, SERVICES, OR SUPERVISION TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES:

(1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

(2) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

(3) THE SECRETARY OF DISABILITIES, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

(4) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

(5) THE MARYLAND INSURANCE COMMISSIONER, OR THE COMMISSIONER’S DESIGNEE;

(6) THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, OR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER’S DESIGNEE;

(7) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE;

(8) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE MARYLAND MEDICAID PROGRAM, OR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

(9) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

1           **(10) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE**  
2 **COMMISSION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

3           **(11) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL**  
4 **INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR PATIENTS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S**  
5 **DESIGNEE;**

6           **(12) THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY, OR**  
7 **THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

8           **(13) THE COORDINATORS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH -**  
9 **GENERAL ARTICLE; AND**

10           **(14) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE-AUTHORIZED**  
11 **ADMINISTRATOR OF 2-1-1 SERVICES IN MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE**  
12 **GOVERNOR.**

13           **(C) (1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S**  
14 **DESIGNEE, SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL.**

15           **(2) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN SHALL PROVIDE STAFF**  
16 **FOR THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL.**

17           **(3) THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL MEET MONTHLY AT THE**  
18 **TIMES AND PLACES THAT THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL DETERMINES.**

19 **8-1503.**

20           **(A) THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL:**

21           **(1) COMPLETE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT NUMBER OF**  
22 **LICENSED BEDS, STAFFED BEDS, AND PHYSICAL BEDS INTENDED TO SERVE THE**  
23 **NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY AGENCY, CATEGORIZED BY TYPE OF BED**  
24 **INCLUSIVE OF AGE, GENDER, DIAGNOSIS, SEVERITY, AND SPECIALTY ACCEPTED FOR**  
25 **THE FOLLOWING BED TYPES:**

26                   **(I) TRADITIONAL FOSTER HOMES;**

27                   **(II) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES;**

28                   **(III) GROUP HOMES;**

1 (IV) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS;

2 (V) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS; AND

3 (VI) RESPITE BEDS;

4 (2) DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC PROCESS FOR TRACKING THE  
5 REAL-TIME LOCATION, LENGTH OF STAY, AND DISCHARGE PLANS FOR PEDIATRIC  
6 HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH -  
7 GENERAL ARTICLE, INCLUDING YOUTH UNDER OR IN THE PROCESS OF A  
8 VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT;

9 (3) (I) DEVELOP A MODEL FOR STANDARDIZED DATA COLLECTION  
10 WITH MANDATED UNIFORM METRICS, INCLUDING AGE, GENDER IDENTITY, RACE,  
11 ETHNICITY, COUNTY OF ORIGIN, PAYER TYPE, AND LENGTH OF STAY FOR PEDIATRIC  
12 HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS, AS DEFINED IN § 19-388 OF THE HEALTH -  
13 GENERAL ARTICLE, INCLUDING YOUTH UNDER OR IN THE PROCESS OF A  
14 VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT; AND

15 (II) DESIGNATE AN ENTITY TO SERVE AS A CENTRAL  
16 REPOSITORY FOR DATA COLLECTED; AND

17 (4) DEVELOP A PLAN AND IDENTIFY RESOURCES NEEDED TO EXPAND  
18 MOBILE RESPONSE AND STABILIZATION SERVICES ACROSS THE STATE TO ENSURE  
19 STATEWIDE ACCESS AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY 2030.

20 (B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, AND JANUARY 1, 2028, THE  
21 INTERAGENCY COUNCIL SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
22 THE GOVERNOR, THE PLACEMENT MANAGER, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257  
23 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor may transfer  
25 positions and funds appropriated for positions from the Workgroup on Children in  
26 Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstays to the Governor's Office for Children.

27 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take  
28 effect October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of  
29 September 30, 2029, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
30 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

31 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section  
32 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026.