

HOUSE BILL 1501

01, 04

6lr2594

By: **Delegate Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Governor's Office for Children – Family Navigators Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Family Navigators Program in the Governor's Office
4 for Children to support parents and other caregivers of children or youth with mental
5 or behavioral health needs or developmental disabilities and to address certain other
6 priorities concerning children and youth; requiring local management boards to
7 oversee and support the Program; requiring a certain family navigator to support,
8 educate, and assist certain parents and caregivers in understanding and addressing
9 certain needs and disabilities, identifying community resources, and obtaining
10 needed services; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation for the
11 Program in the annual budget each fiscal year; defining certain terms; and generally
12 relating to the Family Navigators Program.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Human Services
15 Section 8–101(a), (l), and (m)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Human Services
20 Section 8–6A–01 through 8–6A–06 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6A. Family
21 Navigators Program”
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2007 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Human Services**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 8-101.

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

3 (l) "Local management board" means an entity established or designated by a
4 county under Subtitle 3 of this title to ensure the implementation of a local, interagency
5 service delivery system for children, youth, and families.

6 (m) "Office" means the Governor's Office for Children.

7 **SUBTITLE 6A. FAMILY NAVIGATORS PROGRAM.**

8 **8-6A-01.**

9 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
10 **INDICATED.**

11 **(B) "FAMILY NAVIGATOR" MEANS A PARENT OR OTHER CAREGIVER OF A**
12 **CHILD OR YOUTH WITH MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OR**
13 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WHO:**

14 **(1) IS FAMILIAR WITH STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES; AND**

15 **(2) HAS RECEIVED TRAINING TO SUPPORT, EDUCATE, AND ASSIST**
16 **OTHER PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

17 **(C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE FAMILY NAVIGATORS PROGRAM.**

18 **8-6A-02.**

19 **THERE IS A FAMILY NAVIGATORS PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE.**

20 **8-6A-03.**

21 **THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM ARE TO:**

22 **(1) SUPPORT PARENTS AND OTHER CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN OR**
23 **YOUTH WITH MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OR DEVELOPMENTAL**
24 **DISABILITIES; AND**

25 **(2) ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:**

26 **(I) REDUCING THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION ON**
27 **CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES;**

1 **(II) PREVENTING YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 24**
2 **YEARS FROM BECOMING DISCONNECTED YOUTH; AND**

3 **(III) PREVENTING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

4 **8-6A-04.**

5 **LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS SHALL OVERSEE AND SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.**

6 **8-6A-05.**

7 **A FAMILY NAVIGATOR SHALL SUPPORT, EDUCATE, AND ASSIST A PARENT OR**
8 **CAREGIVER OF A CHILD OR YOUTH WITH MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS**
9 **OR A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY IN:**

10 **(1) UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE CHILD'S OR YOUTH'S**
11 **MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;**

12 **(2) IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY RESOURCES; AND**

13 **(3) OBTAINING NEEDED SERVICES.**

14 **8-6A-06.**

15 **FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL**
16 **BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM AT A LEVEL NOT LESS THAN THE**
17 **LEVEL OF FUNDING PROVIDED FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN FISCAL YEAR 2016.**

18 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
19 **October 1, 2016.**