

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

Approved May 10, 2005.

CHAPTER 334

(Senate Bill 782)

AN ACT concerning

Public Health - Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative

FOR the purpose of establishing a Child Abuse and Neglect Centers of Excellence Initiative in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; providing for the purposes of the Initiative; ~~requiring the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to operate, manage, and administer the Initiative; requiring the Department to cooperate and assist the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in overseeing the Initiative; providing for the duties of the Centers of Excellence faculty; authorizing a Center of Excellence to receive certain information from the Department ~~on and consult~~ and to consult with the Department on certain cases from certain programs or entities; requiring the Secretary of the Health and Mental Hygiene to appoint and convene a certain panel each year; requiring certain the panel to assist the Secretary in reviewing and determining the appropriateness of certain codes and bill protocols relating to child abuse and neglect cases and determining how certain data may be preserved; requiring the panel to meet with certain representatives to provide certain training in certain codes and billing protocols; requiring the panel to submit a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year to the General Assembly on certain data collected on data collected and the activities of the Initiative; requiring the Governor to include certain appropriations in the State budget in certain years; requiring the Office of Legislative Audits to audit certain accounts and transactions of the Initiative; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the State budget in a certain year; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the State budget each year of a certain amount; requiring the Office of Legislative Audits to audit certain accounts and transaction of the Initiative; authorizing requiring certain providers to examine and treat certain children if the child is brought to the providers by certain individuals required to report suspected child abuse or neglect; authorizing certain providers to provide expert child abuse or neglect care under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; requiring the State Attorney General, in conjunction with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Secretary of Human Resources, to convene a certain workgroup composed of certain representatives members; requiring the workgroup to investigate study and make recommendations on the use of, reimbursement for, availability of, and implementation of videoconferencing as a resource in certain investigations; requiring the workgroup to submit a certain report on or before a certain date to the General~~