

CHAPTER 33

(Senate Bill 485)

AN ACT concerning

**Task Force on the Structural Under-Funding of Community Services for
Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to Study the Developmental
Disabilities Administration Rate Payment Systems**

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Task Force on the Structural Under-Funding of Community Services for Individuals with Disabilities~~ requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish the Task Force to Study the Developmental Disabilities Administration Rate Payment Systems; providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the ~~Task Force to elect~~ Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to appoint a chair; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide staff for the Task Force; providing for the duties of the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing members of the Task Force to receive certain assistance upon approval of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force ~~on the Structural Under-Funding of Community Services for Individuals with Disabilities to Study the Developmental Disabilities Administration Rate Payment Systems.~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, Community services for individuals with developmental disabilities should be high quality and individualized to meet each person's needs; and

WHEREAS, 22,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, with over 16,000 more on the Waiting List, depend upon the community services funded by the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The viability of community services for individuals with developmental disabilities is threatened by structural under-funding; and

WHEREAS, Maryland ranks 44th nationally in its fiscal effort to fund and support services for individuals with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, National best practices in community-based supports include self-directed services and customized employment; and