

to receive specified information from the Department and to consult with the Department on specified cases.

Senate Bill 782, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 1341.

Very truly yours,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

### House Bill No. 1341

#### 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; authorizing the Department to contract with a certain type of organization to administer 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 a certain ~~appropriation~~ *appropriations* in the State budget in a certain year ~~years;~~ *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~~ *transactions* 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