

1 WHEREAS, There are many families in Maryland who are adopting children in
2 public foster care from other states that provide financial assistance to adoption
3 agencies to help defray the costs of their services; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland does not currently make financial resources
5 available to licensed private child placement agencies to enable those agencies to
6 place children from public foster care for adoption; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
8 MARYLAND, That the Department of Human Resources shall allocate not less than
9 \$500,000 from the Department's fiscal year 2006 budget appropriations to develop,
10 implement, and monitor a program through which qualified licensed child placement
11 agencies may enter into contracts with the State to provide adoption placement
12 services for Maryland children in public foster care who have no identified
13 permanency resource.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
15 effect July 1, 2005.