

# HOUSE BILL 1188

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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2017

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Advisory Council on Couples Qualifying for Family Investment Administration**  
3 **Benefits**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Advisory Council on Couples Qualifying for Family  
5 Investment Administration Benefits; providing for the composition, chair, and  
6 staffing of the Advisory Council; prohibiting a member of the Advisory Council from  
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
8 expenses; requiring the Advisory Council to identify and analyze certain issues  
9 affecting couples qualifying for Family Investment Administration benefits, and to  
10 research, document, identify, and recommend certain practices to the Department of  
11 Human Resources, and provide for a data-sharing arrangement between the  
12 Department and the Advisory Council; requiring the Department to provide a certain  
13 amount of funding for the Advisory Council; requiring the Advisory Council to report  
14 its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Human Resources on or before  
15 a certain date; requiring the Secretary to report the Department's decision in a  
16 written report on the Advisory Council's recommendation to the General Assembly  
17 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally  
18 relating to the Advisory Council on Couples Qualifying for Family Investment  
19 Administration Benefits.

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That:

22 (a) There is an Advisory Council on Couples Qualifying for Family Investment  
23 Administration Benefits.

24 (b) The Advisory Council consists of the following members, appointed by the  
25 Secretary of Human Resources:

26 (1) one representative of the Department of Human Resources;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (2) one representative of the Family Investment Administration;
- 2 (3) one representative of the Child Support Enforcement Administration;
- 3 (4) three representatives of local departments of social services, including  
4 one representative of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services;
- 5 (5) one representative of the Center for Urban Families;
- 6 (6) one representative from the Annie E. Casey Foundation;
- 7 (7) one representative from the philanthropic community who serves  
8 couples who qualify for Family Investment Administration services; and
- 9 (8) one member of the research community.

10 (c) The Secretary of Human Resources shall designate the chair of the Advisory  
11 Council.

12 (d) The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff for the Advisory  
13 Council.

14 (e) A member of the Advisory Council:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Advisory Council; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
17 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (f) The Advisory Council shall:

19 (1) identify and analyze current practices and procedures of the Family  
20 Investment Administration, local departments of social services, the Child Support  
21 Enforcement Administration, and any other local or State policy, whether authorized by  
22 statute, regulation, or practice, which may adversely impact or impede the progress of  
23 couples who qualify for Family Investment Administration services and benefits;

24 (2) research, document, assess, and recommend to the Secretary of Human  
25 Resources best practices for and policy changes to be made to the Family Investment  
26 Administration, the Child Support Enforcement Administration, and any other local or  
27 State body that will enable couples striving to navigate social service systems, including:

28 (i) income qualification guidelines for Family Investment  
29 Administration cash assistance; and

30 (ii) the model demonstrated by the Couples Advancing Together  
31 Pilot Program; and

1                   (3) enter into a data-sharing agreement with the Department of Human  
2 Resources, specifying:

3                   (i) the types of data and other information required by the Advisory  
4 Council to efficiently and effectively perform its duties;

5                   (ii) the practices and procedures currently in place in the  
6 Department of Human Resources and local departments of social services; and

7                   (iii) the manner and timing in which data sharing will be conducted.

8                   (g) The Department of Human Resources shall provide funding in the amount of  
9 \$25,000 from its budget to support the Advisory Council's duties.

10                  (h) The Advisory Council shall be appointed and begin its work before August 1,  
11 2017.

12                  (i) (1) The Advisory Council shall meet regularly and, on or before January 1,  
13 2018, report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Human Resources.

14                  (2) On or before January 31, 2018, the Secretary of Human Resources shall  
15 submit a written report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to  
16 the General Assembly advising of the Department's decision to adopt or decline the  
17 Advisory Council's recommendations and the reasons why the recommendations were or  
18 were not adopted.

19                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
20 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2018,  
21 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
22 of no further force and effect.