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Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 30, 1997

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts - Family Division - Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to establish a
4 ~~Family Division in certain circuit courts; repealing certain provisions of law relating~~
5 ~~to allowing the establishment of a Family Division and the continuance of domestic~~
6 ~~relations masters; repealing an obsolete provision of law; requiring either the~~
7 ~~transfer of judges from a circuit's general trial division to a Family Division or the~~
8 ~~creation of judgeships by judicial certification for a Family Division; making certain~~
9 ~~provisions for juvenile judges in Montgomery County; establishing a Supervising~~
10 ~~Family Judge for each Family Division; authorizing the judges of the circuit court to~~
11 ~~retain the authority to take certain actions; transferring Masters in Chancery and~~
12 ~~juvenile court masters to a Family Division; providing for the jurisdiction of a~~
13 ~~Family Division; requiring the State to provide funding for certain personnel of a~~
14 ~~Family Division under certain circumstances; requiring jurisdictions that receive~~
15 ~~State funding to appropriate local funds in a certain amount for a certain purpose;~~
16 ~~transferring judges, court personnel, and jurisdiction to certain Family Divisions;~~
17 ~~providing that this Act may not be interpreted to require or permit the~~
18 ~~establishment of a Family Division circuit judge in any jurisdiction in which a Family~~
19 ~~Division is not established under this Act; providing for a delayed effective date;~~
20 ~~and generally relating to establishing a Family Division in certain circuit courts~~
21 stating the intent of the General Assembly that the Court of Appeals establish
22 family divisions within certain circuit courts and, by rule, provide for the
23 organization and administration of a family division, that the State provide funding

2

1 for certain staff for each family division, that the Standing Committee on Rules of
2 Practice and Procedure study the availability and development of essential family
3 support services, and that the State provide funding for these services; providing for
4 a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the establishment of family
5 divisions in circuit courts.

6 ~~BY repealing~~

7 ~~Chapter 198 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1993~~

8 BY adding to

9 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10 Section 1-504

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That ~~Chapter 198 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1993 be~~
15 ~~repealed.~~

16 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland~~
17 ~~read as follows:~~

18 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 1-504.

20 ~~(A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:~~

21 ~~(1) FAMILY, DOMESTIC, AND JUVENILE MATTERS BE TREATED IN THE~~
22 ~~JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS OTHER MATTERS, BOTH CIVIL AND~~
23 ~~CRIMINAL;~~

24 ~~(2) IN ORDER TO BETTER ENABLE THE COURTS TO HANDLE FAMILY,~~
25 ~~DOMESTIC, AND JUVENILE MATTERS IN A MORE COORDINATED, EFFICIENT, AND~~
26 ~~RESPONSIVE MANNER, THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS SHALL~~
27 ~~ESTABLISH A FAMILY DIVISION IN EACH CIRCUIT COURT HAVING MORE THAN~~
28 ~~SEVEN CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES;~~

29 ~~(3) THE JUDGES OF THE FAMILY DIVISION HAVE SPECIAL EXPERIENCE,~~
30 ~~TRAINING, OR INTEREST IN FAMILY LAW OR JUVENILE CAUSES AND AN~~
31 ~~UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LIKELY TO COME~~
32 ~~BEFORE THE FAMILY DIVISION; AND~~

33 ~~(4) IN EVERY JURISDICTION IN THE STATE, ESSENTIAL FAMILY~~
34 ~~SUPPORT SERVICES SHALL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING MEDIATION IN CUSTODY AND~~
35 ~~VISITATION MATTERS, CUSTODY INVESTIGATIONS, TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS TO~~
36 ~~RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, INFORMATION SERVICES,~~
37 ~~AND PARENTING SERVICES.~~

38 ~~(B) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
39 ~~INDICATED.~~

1 ~~(2) "FAMILY DIVISION" MEANS THE SUBDIVISION OF A CIRCUIT COURT~~
2 ~~ESTABLISHED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS AND WHICH SHALL~~
3 ~~HAVE JURISDICTION OVER ALL CASES UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION.~~

4 ~~(3) "GENERAL TRIAL DIVISION" MEANS THE SUBDIVISION OF A CIRCUIT~~
5 ~~COURT WHICH HAS OR SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER ALL OTHER CASES NOT~~
6 ~~UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FAMILY DIVISION UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF~~
7 ~~THIS SECTION.~~

8 ~~(C) (1) THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS SHALL ESTABLISH A~~
9 ~~FAMILY DIVISION IN:~~

10 ~~(I) ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE~~
11 ~~COUNTY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY; AND~~

12 ~~(II) EACH CIRCUIT COURT HAVING MORE THAN SEVEN CIRCUIT~~
13 ~~COURT JUDGES.~~

14 ~~(2) EACH FAMILY DIVISION SHALL HAVE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF~~
15 ~~JUDGES TRANSFERRED FROM A CIRCUIT'S GENERAL TRIAL DIVISION OR CREATED~~
16 ~~BY JUDICIAL CERTIFICATION TO HANDLE THE CASES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF~~
17 ~~THE FAMILY DIVISION.~~

18 ~~(D) (1) UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE REQUIRES OTHERWISE,~~
19 ~~A JUDGE ASSIGNED TO THE FAMILY DIVISION SHALL DEVOTE FULL TIME AND~~
20 ~~ATTENTION TO MATTERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FAMILY DIVISION.~~

21 ~~(2) FOR EACH FAMILY DIVISION, THE CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE~~
22 ~~MAY, WHERE NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE,~~
23 ~~CROSS-DESIGNATE CERTAIN JUDGES OF THE FAMILY DIVISION AND THE GENERAL~~
24 ~~TRIAL DIVISION ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.~~

25 ~~(E) (1) FOR EACH FAMILY DIVISION, THE CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE~~
26 ~~SHALL APPOINT A SUPERVISING FAMILY JUDGE, GIVING PRIORITY TO THOSE~~
27 ~~JUDGES ASSIGNED TO THE FAMILY DIVISION, AND TO THOSE JUDGES WILLING TO~~
28 ~~SERVE AS SUPERVISING FAMILY JUDGE FOR A 4-YEAR TERM.~~

29 ~~(2) THE SUPERVISING FAMILY JUDGE SHALL:~~

30 ~~(I) OVERSEE THE SCHEDULING OF FAMILY CASES;~~

31 ~~(II) COORDINATE ESSENTIAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES AS~~
32 ~~PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (H)(2) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

33 ~~(III) HANDLE ALL OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE EFFECTIVE~~
34 ~~FUNCTIONING OF THE FAMILY DIVISION, SUBJECT TO THE DIRECTION OF THE~~
35 ~~CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE IN MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.~~

36 ~~(F) (1) THE JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SHALL RETAIN THE~~
37 ~~AUTHORITY TO:~~

38 ~~(I) APPOINT AND USE MASTERS, SPECIAL MASTERS, AND~~
39 ~~EXAMINERS TO ASSIST IN THE RESOLUTION OF FAMILY DIVISION ISSUES;~~

1 ~~(II) PRESCRIBE THE COMPENSATION, FEES, AND COSTS OF THE~~
2 ~~MASTERS, SPECIAL MASTERS, AND EXAMINERS, AND ASSESS THEM AMONG THE~~
3 ~~PARTIES; AND~~

4 ~~(III) SPECIFY OR LIMIT THE POWERS OF A SPECIAL MASTER OR~~
5 ~~PROVIDE OTHER SPECIFICATIONS IN AN ORDER OF APPOINTMENT.~~

6 ~~(2) ALL MASTERS IN CHANCERY (EXCEPT THE GENERAL EQUITY~~
7 ~~MASTER IN BALTIMORE CITY) OF A CIRCUIT COURT WHERE A FAMILY DIVISION IS~~
8 ~~ESTABLISHED SHALL BECOME MASTERS OF THE FAMILY DIVISION.~~

9 ~~(3) ALL JUVENILE COURT MASTERS IN A CIRCUIT COURT WHERE A~~
10 ~~FAMILY DIVISION IS ESTABLISHED SHALL BECOME MASTERS OF THE FAMILY~~
11 ~~DIVISION.~~

12 ~~(G) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS~~
13 ~~SUBSECTION, THE FAMILY DIVISION SHALL HAVE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER~~
14 ~~THE FOLLOWING:~~

15 ~~(I) DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, INCLUDING DIVORCE,~~
16 ~~ANNULMENT, AND PROPERTY DISTRIBUTION;~~

17 ~~(II) CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION, INCLUDING PROCEEDINGS~~
18 ~~UNDER THE MARYLAND UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION ACT;~~

19 ~~(III) ALIMONY AND CHILD SUPPORT, INCLUDING PROCEEDINGS~~
20 ~~UNDER THE MARYLAND UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT;~~

21 ~~(IV) ESTABLISHMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE PARENT CHILD~~
22 ~~RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING PATERNITY, ADOPTION, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL~~
23 ~~RIGHTS, AND EMANCIPATION;~~

24 ~~(V) CRIMINAL NONSUPPORT AND DESERTION, INCLUDING~~
25 ~~PROCEEDINGS UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 AND TITLE 13 OF THE FAMILY LAW~~
26 ~~ARTICLE;~~

27 ~~(VI) NAME CHANGES;~~

28 ~~(VII) GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS AND DISABLED PERSONS UNDER~~
29 ~~TITLE 13 OF THE ESTATES AND TRUSTS ARTICLE;~~

30 ~~(VIII) INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION TO STATE FACILITIES AND~~
31 ~~EMERGENCY EVALUATIONS UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE HEALTH-~~
32 ~~GENERAL ARTICLE;~~

33 ~~(IX) FAMILY LEGAL MEDICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING DECISIONS ON~~
34 ~~THE WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWAL OF LIFE SUSTAINING MEDICAL PROCEDURES;~~

35 ~~(X) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2)(1) OF THIS~~
36 ~~SUBSECTION, CASES INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNDER TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 5~~
37 ~~OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE; AND~~

38 ~~(XI) JUVENILE CAUSES UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 8 OF THE COURTS~~
39 ~~ARTICLE.~~

1 ~~(2) IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES UNDER TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE~~
2 ~~FAMILY LAW ARTICLE:~~

3 ~~(I) THE DISTRICT COURT AND THE FAMILY DIVISION SHALL HAVE~~
4 ~~CONCURRENT JURISDICTION OVER ALL EX PARTE PROCEEDINGS; AND~~

5 ~~(II) THE FAMILY DIVISION SHALL HAVE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION~~
6 ~~OVER PROTECTIVE ORDER PROCEEDINGS.~~

7 ~~(3) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT CHANGE THE JURISDICTION OF THE~~
8 ~~ORPHANS' COURT.~~

9 ~~(H) THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR:~~

10 ~~(1) ONE COURTROOM CLERK, ONE LAW CLERK, ONE SECRETARY, AND~~
11 ~~ONE COURT REPORTER FOR EACH JUDGE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO A FAMILY~~
12 ~~DIVISION;~~

13 (A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:

14 (1) THE COURT OF APPEALS ESTABLISH ONE OR MORE FAMILY
15 DIVISIONS WITHIN THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF THIS STATE BUT AT LEAST IN EACH
16 CIRCUIT HAVING MORE THAN SEVEN CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES;

17 (2) THE COURT OF APPEALS, BY RULE, PROVIDE FOR THE
18 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A FAMILY DIVISION, INCLUDING:

19 (I) THE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF A DIVISION;

20 (II) THE ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES, MASTERS, AND OTHER STAFF TO
21 A DIVISION;

22 (III) THE DESIGNATION OF A SUPERVISING JUDGE;

23 (IV) THE IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW A
24 FAMILY DIVISION TO BE FULLY FUNCTIONAL; AND

25 (V) AS APPROPRIATE, COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL
26 UNITS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES PROVIDING THESE SERVICES;

27 (3) IN EXERCISING THE POWER TO ESTABLISH FAMILY DIVISIONS, THE
28 COURT OF APPEALS CONFORM, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, TO THE INTENT OF THE
29 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 2 OF CHAPTER 198 OF THE ACTS
30 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1993 AND COORDINATE, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT
31 POSSIBLE, ALL FAMILY LAW CASES WITHIN THE FAMILY DIVISIONS;

32 (4) FOR EACH FAMILY DIVISION ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION,
33 THE STATE PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR
34 AND OTHER STAFF AS REQUESTED IN THE JUDICIARY'S BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR
35 EACH COURT ESTABLISHED IN A FAMILY DIVISION TO WHICH A JUDGE HAS BEEN
36 ASSIGNED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS;

1 (5) IN CONSIDERING RULES TO ESTABLISH FAMILY DIVISIONS, THE
2 STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE STUDY THE
3 AVAILABILITY OF, AND WHERE NOT AVAILABLE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF

4 ~~(2)~~ ESSENTIAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN ALL JURISDICTIONS,
5 BOTH THOSE WITH AND WITHOUT A FAMILY DIVISION, INCLUDING:

6 (I) MEDIATION IN CUSTODY AND VISITATION MATTERS;

7 (II) CUSTODY INVESTIGATION;

8 (III) TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO
9 EMERGENCIES BY INTERVIEWING PARTIES, GATHERING INFORMATION, AND
10 MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO JUDGES AND MASTERS;

11 (IV) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH
12 EVALUATIONS;

13 (V) INFORMATION SERVICES TO PROVIDE PROCEDURAL
14 ASSISTANCE TO PRO SE LITIGANTS; AND

15 (VI) PARENTING SEMINARS; AND

16 ~~(3) A FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR IN ALL~~
17 ~~JURISDICTIONS, BOTH THOSE WITH AND WITHOUT A FAMILY DIVISION, WHO SHALL:~~

18 ~~(I) IDENTIFY EXISTING ESSENTIAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES;~~
19 ~~AND~~

20 ~~(II) ASSESS THE NEED FOR BOTH ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL FAMILY~~
21 ~~SUPPORT SERVICES AND NONESSENTIAL BUT IMPORTANT FAMILY SUPPORT~~
22 ~~SERVICES, INCLUDING GENERAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS, CASE MANAGERS, AND~~
23 ~~FAMILY FOLLOW UP SERVICES.~~

24 ~~(I) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT THE TEMPORARY USE OF~~
25 ~~FAMILY DIVISION COURT REPORTERS AND CLERKS BY THE GENERAL TRIAL~~
26 ~~DIVISION OF A CIRCUIT COURT OR THE USE OF GENERAL TRIAL DIVISION COURT~~
27 ~~REPORTERS AND CLERKS BY THE FAMILY DIVISION.~~

28 ~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in Anne Arundel County,~~
29 ~~Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County,~~
30 ~~beginning January 1, 1999, and completed no later than January 1, 2002, there shall be~~
31 ~~transferred from a circuit's general trial division or created by judicial certification a~~
32 ~~sufficient number of judges to handle the cases under the Family Division's jurisdiction.~~

33 ~~SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That each Circuit~~
34 ~~Administrative Judge shall make assignments to the Family Division in keeping with the~~
35 ~~intent and purposes of a Family Division as set forth in this Act, with respect to both the~~
36 ~~length of full time service in the Family Division and the temperament and experience of~~
37 ~~the judges selected.~~

38 ~~SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in addition to the circuit~~
39 ~~court judges assigned to the Family Division of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County,~~

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1 the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall cross designate the three juvenile judges of
 2 the District Court in Montgomery County to the Family Division in Montgomery County.
 3 The cross-designated judges shall continue to utilize courtroom space in the District
 4 Court until alternative space is provided by the Montgomery County government in
 5 accordance with its Capital Improvement Plan.

6 SECTION 6. ~~AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any new judgeships~~
 7 ~~created through judicial certification in order to ensure a sufficient number of judges to~~
 8 ~~handle the cases under the Family Division's jurisdiction as set forth in Section 3, shall be~~
 9 ~~filled by the Governor in keeping with the intent and purpose of a Family Division as set~~
 10 ~~forth in this Act, with respect to both a candidate's temperament and experience with~~
 11 ~~family law cases and a candidate's desire to serve on a permanent, full-time basis in the~~
 12 ~~Family Division.~~

13 SECTION 7. ~~AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in Anne Arundel County,~~
 14 ~~Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County:~~

15 (1) ~~All Masters in Chancery (except the General Equity Master in~~
 16 ~~Baltimore City) shall become Masters of the Family Division effective January 1, 1999;~~

17 (2) ~~Before January 1, 2002, a Master in Chancery may exercise concurrent~~
 18 ~~jurisdiction under a General Trial Division;~~

19 (3) ~~On and after January 1, 2002, all Masters in Chancery will exercise~~
 20 ~~jurisdiction exclusively under the Family Division; and~~

21 (4) ~~All Juvenile Masters shall become Masters of the Family Division on~~
 22 ~~January 1, 2002.~~

23 SECTION 8. ~~AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in Anne Arundel County,~~
 24 ~~Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County the~~
 25 ~~transfer of jurisdiction to the Family Division shall occur as follows:~~

26 (1) ~~All cases under the Family Division's jurisdiction which are filed on or~~
 27 ~~after January 1, 1999 shall be filed in the Family Division;~~

28 (2) ~~Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this section, all cases pending in~~
 29 ~~a circuit court on January 1, 1999 shall be transferred to the Family Division; and~~

30 (3) ~~A judge in the General Trial Division may elect to keep a case in the~~
 31 ~~General Trial Division which is pending on January 1, 1999 and which would otherwise be~~
 32 ~~transferred to the Family Division if the judge determines, either on motion of a party or~~
 33 ~~on the judge's own motion, that it would be in the best interests of the parties to keep the~~
 34 ~~case.~~

35 SECTION 9. ~~AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That jurisdiction over juvenile~~
 36 ~~causes under Title 3, Subtitle 8 of the Courts Article shall be transferred to the Family~~
 37 ~~Division as follows:~~

38 (1) ~~In Montgomery County, all pending and new cases shall be transferred~~
 39 ~~by January 1, 1999; and~~

1 ~~(2) In Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince~~
2 ~~George's County, all new juvenile cases shall be filed in the Family Division on and after~~
3 ~~January 1, 1999. By January 1, 2002, all pending juvenile cases, regardless of when filed,~~
4 ~~shall be transferred to the Family Division. Between January 1, 1999 and January 1, 2002,~~
5 ~~the General Trial Division and the Family Division may exercise concurrent jurisdiction~~
6 ~~over juvenile cases. If it is in the interests of justice, any juvenile case may be transferred~~
7 ~~between the General Trial Division and the Family Division between January 1, 1999 and~~
8 ~~January 1, 2002.~~

9 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

10 (a) ~~The State funded positions required by this Act shall be funded on the~~
11 ~~following schedule:~~

12 ~~(1) Beginning in the year any Family Division judge is transferred from a~~
13 ~~circuit's general trial division or created by judicial certification, the State shall provide to~~
14 ~~each jurisdiction the funding for one courtroom clerk, one law clerk, one secretary, and~~
15 ~~one court reporter for that judge; and~~

16 ~~(2) Beginning January 1, 1999, and completed no later than December 31,~~
17 ~~2002, the State shall provide to each jurisdiction the funding for all court clerks, law~~
18 ~~clerks, secretaries, and court reporters for all Family Division judges.~~

19 ~~(b) Each jurisdiction receiving the State funding provided for in subsection (a) of~~
20 ~~this section shall appropriate local funds to the circuit court system in an amount no less~~
21 ~~than that appropriated by the jurisdiction in the prior fiscal year.~~

22 SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
23 interpreted to require or permit the establishment of a Family Division circuit judge in
24 any jurisdiction in which a Family Division is not established under this Act.

25 SECTION 12.

26 (6) THE STATE PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL
27 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES AS REQUESTED IN THE JUDICIARY'S BUDGET
28 SUBMISSION, AND THAT THE REQUEST NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO CIRCUIT COURTS
29 WITH FAMILY DIVISIONS.

30 (B) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT THE USE
31 OF EXISTING STATE OR LOCAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES AS ENUMERATED IN
32 SUBSECTION (A)(5) ABOVE.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 ~~January 1, 1999~~ July 1, 1998.

