

HOUSE BILL 910

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1998 Regular Session
8r1895
CF 8r1893

By: **Delegates Barve and Gordon**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Assistance - Finger Imaging Identification Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to establish a
4 statewide Finger Imaging Identification Pilot Program for applicants for
5 assistance under the Family Investment Program; authorizing the Secretary to
6 adopt rules and regulations to administer the Pilot Program; requiring the
7 Secretary to submit a certain report to certain legislative committees on the
8 effectiveness of the Pilot Program; defining certain terms; providing for the
9 termination of this Act; and generally relating to establishing a Finger Imaging
10 Identification Pilot Program for applicants for certain public assistance.

11 BY adding to

12 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
13 Section 62B through 62E, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Finger
14 Imaging Identification Pilot Program"
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article 88A - Department of Human Resources**

20 **FINGER IMAGING IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM**

21 62B.

22 (A) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
23 INDICATED.

24 (B) "FINGER IMAGING" MEANS A PROCEDURE IN WHICH FINGERPRINTS OF
25 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS ARE TAKEN AND STORED IN AN ELECTRONIC
26 DATABASE.

1 (C) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE FINGER IMAGING IDENTIFICATION PILOT
2 PROGRAM.

3 (D) "PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS
4 APPLIED FOR BENEFITS AS DESCRIBED UNDER THE FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM
5 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

6 62C.

7 (A) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE
8 FINGER IMAGING IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM.

9 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT
10 APPLICATIONS FOR AND FRAUDULENT RECEIPT OF FAMILY INVESTMENT
11 ASSISTANCE.

12 (C) THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT
13 PROGRAM.

14 62D.

15 (A) AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING ASSISTANCE, ALL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
16 APPLICANTS SHALL BE FINGERPRINTED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
17 SERVICES WHERE THE APPLICATIONS ARE MADE.

18 (B) THE FINGERPRINTS SHALL BE STORED IN AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE
19 MAINTAINED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE
20 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF TRACKING
21 POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS OF FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED FAMILY INVESTMENT
22 PROGRAM ASSISTANCE.

23 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL CONDUCT PERIODIC
24 AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS OF DATABASE MAINTENANCE TO ENSURE THAT THE
25 FINGERPRINT INFORMATION IS NOT BEING IMPROPERLY DISCLOSED OR OTHERWISE
26 ILLEGALLY USED.

27 62E.

28 (A) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1999, THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES
29 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE AND
30 THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
31 THE PILOT PROGRAM.

32 (B) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

33 (1) DATA ON THE CASELOAD THAT EXISTED BEFORE AND 1 YEAR AFTER
34 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM;

1 (2) THE PROJECTED FINANCIAL SAVINGS THROUGH DETERRENCE OF
2 FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS AND APPREHENSION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
3 RECIPIENTS WHO WERE FRAUDULENTLY RECEIVING BENEFITS;

4 (3) DATA LISTING INSTANCES OF FRAUD, SUCH AS ATTEMPTS AT AND
5 INSTANCES OF MULTIPLE ENROLLMENT BY INDIVIDUALS;

6 (4) ANALYSIS OF THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT; AND

7 (5) RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD
8 BE CONTINUED, EXPANDED, CONCLUDED, OR OTHERWISE MODIFIED.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
11 September 30, 2000, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
12 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.