
By: ~~Delegates Barve and Gordon, Gordon, and Harkins~~

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 27, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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; conduct~~
11 ~~a certain study related to establishing a statewide Finger Imaging Identification~~
12 ~~Pilot Project; requiring the Secretary to submit a certain report to certain~~
13 ~~persons by a certain date; and generally relating to a study on the establishment~~
14 ~~of a Finger Imaging Identification Pilot Project.~~

15 ~~BY adding to~~
16 ~~Article 88A - Department of Human Resources~~
17 ~~Section 62B through 62E, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Finger~~
18 ~~Imaging Identification Pilot Program"~~
19 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
20 ~~(1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)~~

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

1 **Article 88A—Department of Human Resources**2 **FINGER IMAGING IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM**3 ~~62B.~~4 (A) ~~IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
5 ~~INDICATED.~~6 (B) ~~"FINGER IMAGING" MEANS A PROCEDURE IN WHICH FINGERPRINTS OF~~
7 ~~PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS ARE TAKEN AND STORED IN AN ELECTRONIC~~
8 ~~DATABASE.~~9 (C) ~~"PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE FINGER IMAGING IDENTIFICATION PILOT~~
10 ~~PROGRAM.~~11 (D) ~~"PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS~~
12 ~~APPLIED FOR BENEFITS AS DESCRIBED UNDER THE FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM~~
13 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.~~14 ~~62C.~~15 (A) ~~THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE~~
16 ~~FINGER IMAGING IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM.~~17 (B) ~~THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT~~
18 ~~APPLICATIONS FOR AND FRAUDULENT RECEIPT OF FAMILY INVESTMENT~~
19 ~~ASSISTANCE.~~20 (C) ~~THE SECRETARY MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT~~
21 ~~PROGRAM.~~22 ~~62D.~~23 (A) ~~AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING ASSISTANCE, ALL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE~~
24 ~~APPLICANTS SHALL BE FINGERPRINTED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL~~
25 ~~SERVICES WHERE THE APPLICATIONS ARE MADE.~~26 (B) ~~THE FINGERPRINTS SHALL BE STORED IN AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE~~
27 ~~MAINTAINED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE~~
28 ~~DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OF TRACKING~~
29 ~~POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS OF FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED FAMILY INVESTMENT~~
30 ~~PROGRAM ASSISTANCE.~~31 (C) ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL CONDUCT PERIODIC~~
32 ~~AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS OF DATABASE MAINTENANCE TO ENSURE THAT THE~~
33 ~~FINGERPRINT INFORMATION IS NOT BEING IMPROPERLY DISCLOSED OR OTHERWISE~~
34 ~~ILLEGALLY USED.~~

1 ~~62E.~~

2 (A) ~~ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1999, THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES~~
3 ~~SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE AND~~
4 ~~THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF~~
5 ~~THE PILOT PROGRAM.~~

6 (B) ~~THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:~~

7 (1) ~~DATA ON THE CASELOAD THAT EXISTED BEFORE AND 1 YEAR AFTER~~
8 ~~THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM;~~

9 (2) ~~THE PROJECTED FINANCIAL SAVINGS THROUGH DETERRENCE OF~~
10 ~~FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS AND APPREHENSION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE~~
11 ~~RECIPIENTS WHO WERE FRAUDULENTLY RECEIVING BENEFITS;~~

12 (3) ~~DATA LISTING INSTANCES OF FRAUD, SUCH AS ATTEMPTS AT AND~~
13 ~~INSTANCES OF MULTIPLE ENROLLMENT BY INDIVIDUALS;~~

14 (4) ~~ANALYSIS OF THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT; AND~~

15 (5) ~~RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD~~
16 ~~BE CONTINUED, EXPANDED, CONCLUDED, OR OTHERWISE MODIFIED.~~

17 (a) The Department of Human Resources shall conduct a study of finger
18 imaging as a method of preventing fraudulent applications for and fraudulent receipt
19 of Family Investment Program and Food Stamp Program benefits.

20 (b) As part of the study, the Department shall examine:

21 (1) the cost effectiveness of finger imaging programs in other states;

22 (2) the impact on Maryland of surrounding states' establishment of
23 finger imaging programs;

24 (3) the impact of finger imaging in comparison to other methods of
25 preventing fraud;

26 (4) the projected savings to Maryland through deterrence of fraudulent
27 applications and apprehension of public assistance recipients fraudulently receiving
28 benefits; and

29 (5) in consultation with the Office of Administrative Hearings, the
30 feasibility of a grievance procedure for resolving complaints regarding the denial of
31 benefits that pertain to the fraudulent application for, and fraudulent receipt of,
32 Family Investment program assistance identified through the finger imaging.

33 (c) The Department shall report the findings and recommendations of its
34 study to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee by
35 October 1, 1998.

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