
By: **Senator Hafer**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foster Care - Child Support Obligations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Social Services Administration to adopt regulations
4 that mandate background checks for child support arrearages for certain foster
5 parents who are also biological parents; requiring the Social Services
6 Administration to adopt regulations that mandate that certain foster parents be
7 given a certain time period to pay delinquent child support obligations before
8 any action is taken with regard to the placement of foster children; and
9 generally relating to the placement of foster children.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Family Law
12 Section 5-525(g)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Family Law**

18 5-525.

19 (g) The Administration shall adopt regulations that:

20 (1) for the 12-month period beginning on October 1, 1983, and for each
21 subsequent 12-month period, establish specific goals as to the maximum number of
22 children who will remain in foster care for more than 2 years;

23 (2) prohibit a local department from seeking the custody or guardianship
24 of a child for placement in foster care solely because the child's parent or guardian
25 lacks shelter; [and]

26 (3) require the local department to make appropriate referrals to
27 emergency shelter and other services for families with children who lack shelter;

1 (4) REQUIRE THAT A BACKGROUND CHECK OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT
2 OBLIGATIONS AND ARREARAGES BE CONDUCTED ON A PROSPECTIVE FOSTER
3 PARENT WHO IS ALSO A BIOLOGICAL PARENT PRIOR TO THE PLACEMENT OF A
4 FOSTER CHILD;

5 (5) REQUIRE THAT ANY PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENT WHOSE CHILD
6 SUPPORT PAYMENTS ARE IN ARREARS WILL BE GIVEN 60 DAYS TO BRING THE
7 OBLIGATION CURRENT BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE WHETHER TO PLACE A FOSTER
8 CHILD WITH THE PROSPECTIVE PARENT; AND

9 (6) REQUIRE THAT DURING THE TIME AN INDIVIDUAL IS A FOSTER
10 PARENT, IF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS ARE IN ARREARS, HE OR
11 SHE WILL HAVE 30 DAYS TO BRING THE OBLIGATION CURRENT BEFORE ANY
12 DECISION IS MADE WHETHER TO REMOVE A FOSTER CHILD FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S
13 HOME.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 1998.