
By: **Senator Hafer**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 1998

CHAPTER_____

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 or removal of foster children;
9 and 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;

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

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

6 (4) (I) REQUIRE THAT A BACKGROUND CHECK OF ANY CHILD
7 SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS AND ARREARAGES BE CONDUCTED ON A PROSPECTIVE
8 FOSTER PARENT WHO IS ALSO A BIOLOGICAL PARENT PRIOR TO THE PLACEMENT OF
9 A FOSTER CHILD IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S HOME;

10 ~~(5)~~ (II) REQUIRE THAT ANY PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENT WHOSE
11 CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS ARE IN ARREARS WILL BE GIVEN 60 DAYS TO BRING THE
12 OBLIGATION CURRENT BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE WHETHER TO PLACE A FOSTER
13 CHILD ~~WITH THE PROSPECTIVE PARENT~~ IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S HOME; AND

14 ~~(6)~~ (III) REQUIRE THAT DURING THE TIME AN INDIVIDUAL IS A FOSTER
15 PARENT, IF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS ARE IN ARREARS, ~~HE OR~~
16 ~~SHE~~ THE INDIVIDUAL WILL HAVE 30 DAYS TO BRING THE OBLIGATION CURRENT
17 BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE WHETHER TO REMOVE A FOSTER CHILD FROM THE
18 INDIVIDUAL'S HOME.

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