

SENATE BILL 728

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2000 Regular Session
0lr2769
CF 0lr2340

By: **Senators Van Hollen, McFadden, Hoffman, Kasemeyer, Lawlah, Kelley, Mitchell, and Currie**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Resources - Reducing Caseloads in Foster Care and**
3 **Protective Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to provide additional staff and budgetary
5 resources to achieve certain caseload ratios for Child Protective Services, Family
6 Preservation, Foster Care, Kinship Care, and Preadoption Cases; requiring the
7 Department of Human Resources and the Department of Budget and
8 Management to develop the caseload reductions using certain recommendations;
9 requiring the Governor to include certain budgetary resources for fiscal years
10 2002 and 2003 to achieve caseload reductions; requiring the Department of
11 Human Resources and the Department of Budget and Management to report to
12 certain committees of the General Assembly on a semiannual basis for a certain
13 period; and generally relating to reducing caseloads in foster care and protective
14 services.

15 BY adding to
16 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
17 Section 3B
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

23 3B.

24 (A) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL REQUEST AND THE
25 GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE IN THE STATE BUDGET THE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS OF
26 QUALIFIED CASEWORKERS AND CASEWORK SUPERVISORS NECESSARY TO ATTAIN
27 APPROPRIATE CASELOAD RATIOS FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, FAMILY
28 PRESERVATION, FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND PREADOPTIION CASES AS

1 OUTLINED IN SECTION 2 OF CHAPTER 544 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2 OF 1998.

3 (B) (1) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE SECRETARY OF
4 BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL DEVELOP THE APPROPRIATE CASELOAD RATIOS
5 USING THE RATIO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF
6 AMERICA IN ITS 1997 REPORT, "A REPORT OF THE MARYLAND CHILD WELFARE
7 SYSTEM".

8 (2) THE RELEVANT CASELOAD RATIOS FOR THE 24 JURISDICTIONS
9 SHALL BE DEVELOPED FROM THE 1997 CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE REPORT.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall
11 include in the annual State operating budgets for fiscal years 2002 and 2003
12 sufficient funds to reduce, in equal shares, the caseload-to-staff ratios for Child
13 Protective Services, Family Preservation, Foster Care, Kinship Care and Preadoption
14 Cases to meet the objectives for caseload reduction as outlined in Section 2 of Chapter
15 544 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1
17 and July 1 of calendar years 2001 through 2003 and January 1, 2004, and subject to
18 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Department of Human Resources and
19 the Department of Budget and Management shall provide to the Senate Budget and
20 Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Appropriations
21 Committee progress reports on the achievement of the appropriate caseload ratios.

22 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2000.