By: **Senators Van Hollen, McFadden, Hoffman, Kasemeyer, Lawlah, Kelley, Mitchell, and Currie**
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Assigned to: Budget and Taxation
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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 27, 2000

CHAPTER_____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Resources - Reducing Caseloads in ~~Foster Care and~~**
3 **~~Protective~~ Child Welfare 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   child protective services, foster care, kinship care, group care, and residential
10   care cases; requiring the Governor to include certain budgetary resources for
11   certain fiscal years ~~2002 and 2003~~ to achieve certain caseload reductions;
12   requiring the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Budget
13   and Management to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on a
14   semiannual basis for a certain period; and generally relating to reducing
15   caseloads in ~~foster care and protective~~ child welfare services.

16 BY adding to
17   Article 88A - Department of Human Resources
18   Section 3B
19   Annotated Code of Maryland
20   (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 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 3B.

3   (A)   THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL REQUEST AND THE
4 GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE IN THE STATE BUDGET THE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS OF
5 QUALIFIED CASEWORKERS AND CASEWORK SUPERVISORS NECESSARY TO ATTAIN
6 ~~APPROPRIATE CASELOAD RATIOS FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, FAMILY~~
7 ~~PRESERVATION, FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND PREADOPTION CASES AS~~
8 ~~OUTLINED IN SECTION 2 OF CHAPTER 544 OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~
9 ~~OF 1998.~~ CASELOAD RATIOS IN ALL JURISDICTIONS THAT DO NOT EXCEED:

10   (1)   12 CASES PER CASEWORKER IN CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES;

11   (2)   15 CASES PER CASEWORKER IN FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, GROUP
12 CARE, AND RESIDENTIAL CARE CASES; AND

13   (3)   8 CASEWORKERS PER SUPERVISOR.

14   ~~(B)~~   ~~(1)~~   ~~THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE SECRETARY OF~~
15 ~~BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL DEVELOP THE APPROPRIATE CASELOAD RATIOS~~
16 ~~USING THE RATIO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF~~
17 ~~AMERICA IN ITS 1997 REPORT, "A REPORT OF THE MARYLAND CHILD WELFARE~~
18 ~~SYSTEM".~~

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

21   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall
22 include in the annual State operating budgets for fiscal years ~~2002 and 2003~~ 2002,
23 2003, and 2004 sufficient funds in each fiscal year to ~~reduce, in equal shares,~~
24 proportionally phase in, in each jurisdiction, the caseload-to-staff ratios for ~~Child~~
25 ~~Protective Services, Family Preservation, Foster Care, Kinship Care and Preadoption~~
26 ~~Cases to meet the objectives for caseload reduction as outlined in Section 2 of Chapter~~
27 ~~544 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997~~ child protective services, foster care,
28 kinship care, group care, and residential care cases that are required by this Act.

29   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1
30 and July 1 of calendar years 2001 through ~~2003~~ 2004 and January 1, ~~2004~~ 2005, and
31 subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Department of Human
32 Resources and the Department of Budget and Management shall provide to the
33 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the
34 House Appropriations Committee progress reports on the achievement of the
35 ~~appropriate~~ required caseload ratios.

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