
By: **Delegates O'Donnell, Montague, and Owings**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2002
Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: February 26, 2002

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange
4 Monitoring Pilot Program in the Circuit Court for Calvert County to provide
5 exchange monitoring and supervised visitation services to parents and children
6 in Calvert County; requiring the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for
7 Calvert County to enter into contracts with eligible providers for certain
8 exchange monitoring and supervised visitation services; requiring contracts for
9 exchange monitoring and supervised visitation services to follow certain
10 contracting procedures and be evaluated based on certain requirements;
11 requiring the Administrative Judge to adopt certain rules establishing
12 qualifications and standards of practice for eligible providers of exchange
13 monitoring and supervised visitation services; requiring the Administrative
14 Judge to develop a certain evaluation instrument and a certain fee schedule for
15 exchange monitoring services; requiring the Administrative Judge to apply for
16 certain grants and make certain reports; establishing a special nonlapsing
17 Calvert County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program Fund;
18 establishing funding mechanisms for the Fund; authorizing the Governor to
19 make certain appropriations for the Fund; specifying procedures for holding
20 moneys in the Fund, the accounting of the Fund, and making disbursements
21 and expenditures from the Fund; authorizing the Administrative Judge to
22 expend certain grant money beyond a certain period; defining certain terms;
23 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Calvert
24 County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program.

25 BY adding to
26 Article - Family Law
27 Section 9-501 through 9-503 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5. Calvert

1 County Child Visitation and Exchange Monitoring Pilot Program"
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

6 **Article - Family Law**

7 SUBTITLE 5. CALVERT COUNTY CHILD VISITATION AND EXCHANGE MONITORING
8 PILOT PROGRAM.

9 9-501.

10 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
11 INDICATED.

12 (B) "ELIGIBLE PROVIDER" MEANS A LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY, NONPROFIT
13 ENTITY, OR PRIVATE COMPANY THAT MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS AND THE
14 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR PROVIDERS OF EXCHANGE MONITORING AND
15 SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
16 OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY UNDER § 9-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17 (C) "EXCHANGE MONITORING" MEANS A THIRD PERSON SUPERVISION OF THE
18 MOVEMENT OF A CHILD BETWEEN THE CUSTODIAL PARENT AND THE
19 NONCUSTODIAL PARENT OR BETWEEN JOINT CUSTODIAL PARENTS AT THE START OF
20 A VISIT AND AT THE END OF A VISIT AS REQUIRED UNDER A COURT ORDER OR WITH
21 THE MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF
22 FACILITATING A VISITATION.

23 (D) "FUND" MEANS THE CALVERT COUNTY CHILD VISITATION AND EXCHANGE
24 MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM FUND.

25 (E) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE CALVERT COUNTY CHILD VISITATION AND
26 EXCHANGE MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM.

27 (F) "SUPERVISED VISITATION" MEANS A COURT ORDERED CONTACT WITH A
28 CHILD BY A NONCUSTODIAL PARENT IN THE PRESENCE OF A THIRD PERSON
29 RESPONSIBLE FOR OBSERVING AND ENSURING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE
30 OF THE CHILD.

31 9-502.

32 (A) THERE IS A CALVERT COUNTY CHILD VISITATION AND EXCHANGE
33 MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY.

34 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATIVE
35 JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS
36 WITH ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE EXCHANGE MONITORING AND SUPERVISED

1 VISITATION SERVICES TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN CALVERT COUNTY IN ORDER
2 TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE HEALTHY PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIPS
3 BETWEEN NONCUSTODIAL OR JOINT CUSTODIAL PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN,
4 WHILE ENSURING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

5 (C) THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT
6 COUNTY SHALL:

7 (1) ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE
8 EXCHANGE MONITORING AND SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES TO PARENTS AND
9 CHILDREN IN CALVERT COUNTY;

10 (2) FOLLOW STANDARD CONTRACTING PROCEDURE FOR CALVERT
11 COUNTY THAT INCLUDES AN EVALUATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS BASED ON:

12 (I) AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES TO A BROAD POPULATION OF
13 INDIVIDUALS;

14 (II) ABILITY TO EXPAND EXISTING SERVICES;

15 (III) COORDINATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES;

16 (IV) HOURS OF SERVICE DELIVERY; AND

17 (V) OVERALL COST EFFECTIVENESS;

18 (3) ADOPT RULES SPECIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS
19 OF PRACTICE FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS;

20 (4) DEVELOP AN EVALUATION INSTRUMENT THAT IS TO BE SUBMITTED
21 BY ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
22 FOR CALVERT COUNTY AND THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION ON:

23 (I) THE DURATION THAT EACH FAMILY USED THE SUPERVISED
24 VISITATION OR EXCHANGE MONITORING SERVICES;

25 (II) WHETHER REQUIRED CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS WERE BEING
26 MADE BY A NONCUSTODIAL OR JOINT CUSTODIAL PARENT BEFORE, DURING, AND
27 AFTER THE TIME OF THE SERVICES;

28 (III) THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICES ON FAMILIES, INCLUDING
29 FAMILY REUNIFICATION, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND CONTINUED
30 VISITATION; AND

31 (IV) THE COST TO THE ELIGIBLE PROVIDER FOR THE SERVICES TO
32 EACH FAMILY;

33 (5) DEVELOP A FEE SCHEDULE FOR EXCHANGE MONITORING SERVICES
34 THAT:

1 (I) IS APPLICABLE ONLY TO PARENTS NOT UNDER A COURT ORDER
2 REQUIRING EXCHANGE MONITORING WHO MUTUALLY CONSENT TO THE USE OF THE
3 SERVICES TO FACILITATE A CHILD VISITATION OR CUSTODY ARRANGEMENT;

4 (II) INCORPORATES A SLIDING SCALE OF FEES BASED ON EACH
5 PARENT'S ABILITY TO PAY, INCLUDING A FEE WAIVER FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES;
6 AND

7 (III) PROVIDES THAT ALL FEES FOR EXCHANGE MONITORING
8 SERVICES SHALL BE PAID TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT
9 COUNTY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE STATE COMPTROLLER; AND

10 (6) APPLY FOR FEDERAL OR PRIVATE GRANT MONEY TO SUPPLEMENT
11 OR REPLACE MONEYS APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET EACH YEAR FOR THE
12 FUND.

13 (D) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2003, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THE
14 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY SHALL
15 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
16 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE ON:

17 (1) THE OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAM;

18 (2) THE ESTABLISHED QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE
19 FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS;

20 (3) THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE ELIGIBLE PROVIDER
21 EVALUATION INSTRUMENT;

22 (4) THE REVENUE GENERATED BY THE FEES FOR EXCHANGE
23 MONITORING;

24 (5) THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE PROGRAM AND ANY GRANT
25 MONEYS RECEIVED FOR THE PROGRAM; AND

26 (6) THE EXTENT THE PROGRAM IS ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF
27 PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING HEALTHY PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIPS
28 BETWEEN NONCUSTODIAL OR JOINT CUSTODIAL PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN,
29 WHILE ENSURING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

30 9-503.

31 (A) THERE IS A CALVERT COUNTY CHILD VISITATION AND EXCHANGE
32 MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM FUND.

33 (B) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO §
34 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

35 (C) THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEYS APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET
36 TO THE FUND, ALL EARNINGS FROM INVESTMENT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND,

1 REVENUE GENERATED BY FEES FOR EXCHANGE MONITORING SERVICES, AND ANY
2 OTHER MONEYS ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND FROM ANY
3 GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE SOURCE.

4 (D) THE GOVERNOR:

5 (1) MAY PROVIDE FOR THE FUND A DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION IN THE
6 STATE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002; AND

7 (2) MAY APPROPRIATE MONEYS TO THE FUND IN THE STATE BUDGET
8 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

9 (E) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY.

10 (2) THE STATE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND AND
11 SHALL CREDIT TO THE FUND MONEYS FROM EXCHANGE MONITORING SERVICE FEES
12 TRANSMITTED BY THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY.

13 (F) THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED IN THE SAME MANNER
14 AS OTHER STATE FUNDS.

15 (G) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL PAY MONEY FROM THE FUND TO THE CIRCUIT
16 COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY.

17 (H) MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL ONLY BE EXPENDED TO FACILITATE THE
18 PROGRAM.

19 (I) THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO AN AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE
20 AUDITS AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

21 (J) IF THE TERMS OF A GRANT ALLOW, THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE
22 CALVERT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT MAY EXPEND GRANT MONEY BEYOND THE
23 FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE GRANT IS RECEIVED.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of
26 September 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
27 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.