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By: **Senators Van Hollen and Bromwell**  
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2002  
Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Stimulus Program for Working Low Income Families**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Executive Director of the Family Investment  
4 Administration to develop processes to audit certain denials and sanctions, and  
5 formulate strategies to increase the rate of participation in certain programs  
6 and to increase coordination with certain agencies; requiring the Executive  
7 Director to require each local department of social of services to submit annual  
8 plans containing certain objectives and to submit annual reports on the success  
9 meeting the objectives; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to  
10 designate certain staff to work with certain persons to develop a certain  
11 outreach campaign; requiring the Secretary to establish a certain pilot program  
12 in certain locations; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations,  
13 including regulations regarding the coordination of services; and generally  
14 relating to the Family Investment Administration.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources  
17 Section 1A  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 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 1A.

24 (a) The Family Investment Administration is established within the  
25 Department of Human Resources. All of the powers, duties, and responsibilities  
26 provided for the Social Services Administration in the following programs are  
27 transferred to the Family Investment Administration: the Family Investment  
28 Program and related cash benefit programs; public assistance to adults; emergency  
29 assistance; food stamps; and medical assistance eligibility determinations. References  
30 to the "Social Services Administration", "State Department", or "State

1 Administration" in the laws of this State that concern these programs are deemed to  
2 mean the Family Investment Administration.

3 (b) The Secretary of Human Resources shall appoint an Executive Director of  
4 Family Investment with the approval of the Governor. The Executive Director shall  
5 be the head of the Family Investment Administration and shall hold office at the  
6 pleasure of the Secretary of Human Resources. All powers, duties, and responsibilities  
7 that pertain to programs transferred to the Family Investment Administration and  
8 the personnel who administer them which are provided in the laws of this State for  
9 the State Director of Social Services are transferred to the Executive Director of  
10 Family Investment.

11 (c) The exercise of all authority, duties, and functions vested in the Family  
12 Investment Administration or the Executive Director of Family Investment under  
13 this article or any other law of this State shall be subject to the authority of the  
14 Secretary of Human Resources as set forth in Article 41 of this Code or elsewhere in  
15 the laws of this State.

16 (d) The Executive Director of Family Investment shall:

17 (1) Develop a comprehensive process to:

18 (i) Systematically analyze cash assistance payment errors AND  
19 AUDIT APPLICATION AND RECERTIFICATION DENIALS AND SANCTIONS;

20 (ii) Formulate strategies, including improvements in the eligibility  
21 determination process, to reduce the errors, AND INCREASE THE RATE OF  
22 PARTICIPATION IN THE FOOD STAMP, PURCHASE OF CARE, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE,  
23 AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AMONG THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE; [and]

24 (iii) FORMULATE STRATEGIES TO INCREASE COORDINATION WITH  
25 OTHER STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES AND  
26 SUPPORTS TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES; AND

27 (IV) Monitor implementation of the strategies;

28 (2) Require each local department of social services to submit annual  
29 plans that contain measurable objectives, including objectives for participation in  
30 work activities, [to meet the goals of the family investment program] OBJECTIVES  
31 FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN THE FOOD STAMP, PURCHASE OF CARE,  
32 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR  
33 OUTREACH;[and]

34 (3) [Monitor the success of the local departments of social services in  
35 achieving the objectives of the plans.] REQUIRE EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF  
36 SOCIAL SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING ITS SUCCESS IN  
37 ACHIEVING EACH OBJECTIVE; AND

38 (4) MONITOR THE SUCCESS OF EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
39 SERVICES IN ACHIEVING EACH OBJECTIVE.

1 (E) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL DESIGNATE STAFF OF  
2 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES WHO SHALL WORK WITH ADVOCATES  
3 AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS INVITED BY THE SECRETARY TO PARTICIPATE, TO  
4 DEVELOP AN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN THAT WILL INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
5 DISSEMINATION OF SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION FORMS AND APPROPRIATE OUTREACH  
6 MATERIALS THROUGH:

7 (1) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS;

8 (2) COMMUNITY PROVIDERS;

9 (3) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE  
10 OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER; AND

11 (4) SCHOOLS.

12 (F) (1) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COOPERATION WITH  
13 THE DIRECTORS OF LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, SHALL ESTABLISH A  
14 COORDINATED PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE OUTREACH AND OUTPLACEMENT OF  
15 LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES WORKERS TO ASSIST APPLICANTS TO,  
16 AND RECIPIENTS OF BENEFITS UNDER, THE CASH ASSISTANCE, FOOD STAMP,  
17 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, ENERGY ASSISTANCE, AND PURCHASE OF CARE PROGRAMS,  
18 IN AT LEAST THREE LOCATIONS, AS FOLLOWS:

19 (I) ONE IN BALTIMORE CITY;

20 (II) ONE IN A SUBURBAN COUNTY; AND

21 (III) ONE IN A RURAL COUNTY.

22 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL ADOPT  
23 REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM AND SHALL  
24 ENCOURAGE SIGNIFICANT CONSUMER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
25 IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.

26 (G) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT PROVIDE  
27 COORDINATED SERVICES TO APPLICANTS TO, AND RECIPIENTS OF BENEFITS UNDER,  
28 THE CASH ASSISTANCE, FOOD STAMP, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, AND THE PURCHASE  
29 OF CARE PROGRAMS.

30 (2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL BE DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE THE  
31 APPLICATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESSES, AND RELATED COMPUTER  
32 SYSTEMS, INCLUDING:

33 (I) THE ADOPTION OF A SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROCESS;

34 (II) THE COORDINATION OF VERIFICATION PROCESSES; AND

35 (III) THE SYNCHRONIZATION OF CERTIFICATION PERIODS TO THE  
36 MAXIMUM DURATION PERMITTED UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

1           (3)       THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT  
2 APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS ARE GIVEN SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH  
3 THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR EACH PROGRAM, INCLUDING AUTOMATIC SUPERVISOR  
4 REVIEW OF DENIALS AND EXPEDITED FAIR HEARINGS.

5       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2002.