By: Senators Lawlah, Exum, and Pinsky Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002 Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 3	Department of Human Resources - Foster Care Reimbursement and Group Home Care Reimbursement					
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	FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to establish					
5 6	county rates for foster care reimbursement and group home care reimbursement that are not less than corresponding rates for a jurisdiction that is outside of the					
7	State, adjacent to a county, and places children for foster care or group home					
8	care in the county; requiring that the rate for foster care reimbursement not be					
9	less than the rate paid by the Department of Juvenile Justice; and generally					
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11	11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,					
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15	15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)					
16	16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF					
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:						
18	Article - Family Law					
19	5-526.					
20	(a) (1) The Department shall provide for the care, diagnosis, training,					
	education, and rehabilitation of children by placing them in group homes and					
22	institutions that are operated by for-profit or nonprofit charitable corporations.					
23	(2) Any group home utilized under the provisions of this section shall					
24	comply with the provisions of §§ 5-507 through 5-509 of this subtitle.					
25	(b) (1) The Department shall reimburse these corporations for the cost of					
	these services at appropriate monthly rates that the Department determines, as					
27	ovided in the State budget.					

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	(2) THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR SERVICES IN EACH COUNTY MAY 2 NOT BE LESS THAN THE RATE PAID FOR COMPARABLE SERVICES BY A JURISDICTION 3 THAT:					
4			(I)	IS OUTSIDE THE STATE;		
5			(II)	IS ADJACENT TO THE COUNTY; AND		
6			(III)	PLACES CHILDREN FOR FOSTER CARE IN THE COUNTY.		
	[(2)] (3) The reimbursement rate may differ between homes and institutions that provide intermediate services, as defined by the Department, and homes and institutions that provide full services.					
	(c) The Department, or the Department's designee, may not place a child in a residential group home or other facility that is not operating in compliance with applicable State licensing laws.					
13	5-527.					
15	 (a) The Department shall adopt rules and regulations that establish eligibility guidelines for payment for foster care for 1 or more classes of children, including 16 children who are in need of special care. 					
17 (b) (1) For a child who does not need special care, the Department shall pay 18 for foster care in a single family home at a monthly rate that is not less than 55% of 19 the monthly rate provided in subsection (c) of this section for a child who requires the 20 most demanding special care in a single family home.						
21 22	child.	(2)	The more	nthly rate shall include increments based on the age of the		
 (c) The Department shall pay for foster care for a child who needs the most demanding special care in a single family home at a monthly rate that [is not less than the higher of: 						
26		(1)	the rate	that the Department paid in fiscal year 1975; and]:		
27 28		[(2)] for the c	(1) surrent fis	IS NOT LESS THAN the rate that the Department of Juvenile cal year; AND		
	 29 (2) FOR EACH COUNTY, IS NOT LESS THAN THE RATE PAID FOR 30 COMPARABLE SERVICES BY A JURISDICTION THAT: 					
31			(I)	IS OUTSIDE THE STATE;		
32			(II)	IS ADJACENT TO THE COUNTY; AND		
33			(III)	PLACES CHILDREN IN THAT COUNTY.		

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