
By: **Delegates F. Turner, Barkley, Bobo, Bohanan, Bronrott, Cadden,
G. Clagett, DeBoy, Feldman, Franchot, Frush, Gaines, Healey, Hubbard,
James, Jones, King, Madaleno, Marriott, Menes, Nathan-Pulliam,
Pendergrass, Proctor, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Adoption - Placement Services for Children in Public Foster Care - State**
3 **Contracts with Private Licensed Child Placement Agencies**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to allocate not
5 less than a certain amount of money from the Department's fiscal year 2006
6 budget appropriations to develop, implement, and monitor a program though
7 which qualified licensed child placement agencies may enter into contracts with
8 the State to provide adoption placement services for Maryland children in public
9 foster care who have no identified permanency resource; and generally relating
10 to the placement of children in public foster care in permanent adoption
11 arrangements.

12 **Preamble**

13 WHEREAS, There are approximately 500 Maryland children in public foster
14 care waiting to be adopted for whom there are no families currently identified as
15 being available to adopt them; and

16 WHEREAS, Many children in Maryland foster care have been waiting for more
17 than 5 years to be placed for adoption; and

18 WHEREAS, Adoption presents the best opportunity for permanency when
19 children in public foster care are unable to be safely raised by their birth families; and

20 WHEREAS, There are many licensed private child placement agencies within
21 and outside of Maryland that have the knowledge, expertise, and ability to place
22 children for adoption who are in public foster care; and

23 WHEREAS, There are many families in Maryland who are adopting children in
24 public foster care from other states that provide financial assistance to adoption
25 agencies to help defray the costs of their services; and

1 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland does not currently make financial resources
2 available to licensed private child placement agencies to enable those agencies to
3 place children from public foster care for adoption; now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That the Department of Human Resources shall allocate not less than
6 \$500,000 from the Department's fiscal year 2006 budget appropriations to develop,
7 implement, and monitor a program through which qualified licensed child placement
8 agencies may enter into contracts with the State to provide adoption placement
9 services for Maryland children in public foster care who have no identified
10 permanency resource.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
12 effect July 1, 2005.