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James, Jones, King, Madaleno, Marriott, Menes, Nathan-Pulliam,  
Pendergrass, Proctor, and Taylor

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2005

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 through which qualified licensed child placement agencies may enter into  
8 contracts with the State to provide adoption placement services for Maryland  
9 children in public foster care who have no identified permanency resource;  
10 requiring that certain contracts be awarded according to certain competitive  
11 bidding procedures; and generally relating to the placement of children in public  
12 foster care in permanent adoption arrangements.

13 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland does not currently ~~make financial resources~~  
8 ~~available to enter into contracts with~~ licensed private child placement agencies ~~to~~  
9 ~~enable those agencies~~ to place children from public foster care for adoption; now,  
10 therefore,

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (1) the Department of Human Resources shall ~~allocate not less than~~  
14 ~~\$500,000 from the Department's fiscal year 2006 budget appropriations~~ to develop,  
15 implement, and monitor a program through which qualified licensed child placement  
16 agencies may enter into contracts with the State to provide adoption placement  
17 services for Maryland children in public foster care who have no identified  
18 permanency resource; and

19 (2) contracts entered into with the State under this section shall be  
20 awarded according to competitive bidding procedures for State procurement  
21 contracts.

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