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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2005**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Human Resources and the Secretary of  
 4 Budget and Management to develop and implement a certain system of  
 5 accountability to measure the effectiveness of certain child welfare services;  
 6 requiring a variety of indicators to be used to measure the effectiveness of  
 7 certain child welfare services; requiring certain measures to be utilized when  
 8 the Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange is operational;  
 9 requiring the Secretary of Human Resources, in collaboration with certain  
 10 representatives, to develop a protocol for a certain assessment; requiring certain  
 11 child and family case reviews and system performance reviews to make certain  
 12 determinations; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to implement a  
 13 certain self-assessment process at certain intervals and requiring a county to  
 14 incorporate certain results; requiring the county to develop a child welfare plan  
 15 after a certain requirement is met; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources  
 16 to adopt certain regulations; ~~requiring the Governor to appoint a team to plan~~  
 17 ~~and oversee~~ establishing an accountability council to plan, review, assess, and  
 18 provide guidance on the implementation of certain measures and a certain  
 19 self-assessment process; providing for the composition of the ~~team~~  
 20 accountability council; requiring certain agencies to clarify their roles and  
 21 improve coordination in the child welfare system; requiring the Secretary of  
 22 Human Resources to submit certain reports in the implementation of certain  
 23 measures on or before certain dates; requiring the Secretary of Human  
 24 Resources and the Secretary of Budget and Management to ensure that certain  
 25 caseload ratios are achieved using certain criteria; requiring the Department of  
 26 Human Resources to establish a Child Welfare Training Academy and to  
 27 establish a university-based information repository for certain purposes;  
 28 requiring the Department of Human Resources to request that a certain study

1 be replicated at certain intervals; requiring the Department of Human  
 2 Resources to pursue national accreditation for each local department of social  
 3 services and the Social Services Administration; requiring the Secretary of  
 4 Budget and Management to ensure the implementation of a certain child  
 5 welfare information system on or before a certain date; requiring the Secretary  
 6 of Human Resources and the Secretary of Budget and Management, on or before  
 7 a certain date, to revise certain accounting structures and workload measures;  
 8 requiring the Department of Budget and Management to make certain  
 9 comparisons, analyzations, and calculations; requiring the Secretary of Human  
 10 Resources and the Secretary of Budget and Management to prepare a certain  
 11 report on fiscal needs and a current funding gap analysis within the child  
 12 welfare system consistent with certain principles; ~~requiring the Secretary of~~  
 13 ~~Human Resources and the Secretary of Budget and Management to submit a~~  
 14 ~~report on a plan for implementation of reduced caseload ratios on or before a~~  
 15 ~~certain date; authorizing certain information to be disclosed under certain~~  
 16 ~~circumstances to certain persons; prohibiting a certain record or report~~  
 17 ~~concerning child abuse or neglect to contain certain identifying information~~  
 18 ~~under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Human Resources to~~  
 19 ~~develop a new vision and set of principles for the child welfare system, and to~~  
 20 ~~clarify certain roles and relationships within the Department of Human~~  
 21 ~~Resources; requiring the Citizens' Review Board for Children to submit a certain~~  
 22 ~~report on or before a certain date; requiring the Department of Human~~  
 23 ~~Resources to contract for review of certain funding maximization issues; and~~  
 24 ~~generally relating to child welfare accountability.~~

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 26 Article 88A - Department of Human Resources  
 27 Section 6  
 28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 29 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

30 BY adding to  
 31 Article - Family Law  
 32 Section 5-1301 through 5-1314, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle  
 33 13. Child Welfare Accountability"  
 34 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 35 (2004 Replacement Volume)

36 Preamble

37 WHEREAS, Each year the Maryland child welfare system touches the lives of  
 38 90,000 children and their families; and

39 WHEREAS, When abused and neglected children fail to receive necessary,  
 40 timely, and appropriate services and interventions, the human and social costs are  
 41 enormous; and

1 WHEREAS, Inadequate resources in the child welfare system prevent abused  
2 and neglected children and their families from receiving high quality services and  
3 require agencies to focus on meeting only the most pressing needs and to aim only for  
4 compliance with State and federal minimum standards; and

5 WHEREAS, In order for abused and neglected children and their families to  
6 receive high quality services, the child welfare system must aim to create a culture of  
7 excellence and to develop child welfare best practices that provide cutting edge  
8 services to children and families; and

9 WHEREAS, In order to create a culture of excellence and to develop child  
10 welfare best practices in the child welfare system, the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly must make a long-term commitment to enhanced and stable funding and  
12 support for abused and neglected children; and

13 WHEREAS, A culture of excellence in the child welfare system cannot be  
14 accomplished without a long-term commitment to the communities within the State  
15 that contribute the highest number of children to out-of-home care; now, therefore,

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

18 **Article 88A - Department of Human Resources**

19 6.

20 (a) Except in accordance with a court order or to an authorized officer or  
21 employee of the State, another state or local government, or the United States, or a  
22 fiduciary institution having a right thereto in an official capacity, and as necessary to  
23 discharge responsibilities to administer public assistance, medical assistance, or  
24 social services programs, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to divulge or  
25 make known in any manner any information concerning any applicant for or recipient  
26 of social services, child welfare services, cash assistance, food stamps, or medical  
27 assistance, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files, investigations  
28 or communications of the State, county or city, or subdivisions or agencies thereof, or  
29 acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.

30 (b) Except as otherwise provided in Title 5, Subtitle 7 of the Family Law  
31 Article, § 6A of this subtitle, and this section, all records and reports concerning child  
32 abuse or neglect are confidential, and their unauthorized disclosure is a criminal  
33 offense subject to the penalty set out in subsection (e) of this section. Reports or  
34 records concerning child abuse or neglect:

35 (1) Shall be disclosed:

36 (i) Under a court order; or

37 (ii) Under an order of an administrative law judge, if the request for  
38 disclosure concerns a case pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings and  
39 provisions are made to comply with other State or federal confidentiality laws and to

1 protect the identity of the reporter or other person whose life or safety is likely to be  
2 endangered by disclosure; and

3           (2)     May be disclosed on request:

4                   (i)     To personnel of local or State departments of social services, law  
5 enforcement personnel, and members of multidisciplinary case consultation teams,  
6 who are investigating a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect or who  
7 are providing services to a child or family that is the subject of the report;

8                   (ii)    To local or State officials responsible for the administration of  
9 child protective services or child care, foster care, and adoption licensing, approval, or  
10 regulations as necessary to carry out their official functions;

11                  (iii)   To the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, the State  
12 Citizens Review Board for Children, or their designees, or a child fatality review team  
13 as necessary to carry out their official functions;

14                   (IV)    SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS  
15 SECTION, TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-1309 OF THE  
16 FAMILY LAW ARTICLE AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE ACCOUNTABILITY  
17 COUNCIL'S OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS;

18                  [(iv)]   (V)    To a person who is the alleged child abuser or the person  
19 who is suspected of child neglect if that person is responsible for the child's welfare  
20 and provisions are made for the protection of the identity of the reporter or any other  
21 person whose life or safety is likely to be endangered by disclosing the information;

22                  [(v)]    (VI)   To a licensed practitioner who, or an agency, institution, or  
23 program which, is providing treatment or care to a child who is the subject of a report  
24 of child abuse or neglect for a purpose relevant to the provision of the treatment or  
25 care;

26                  [(vi)]   (VII)   To a parent or other person who has permanent or  
27 temporary care and custody of a child, if provisions are made for the protection of the  
28 identity of the reporter or any other person whose life or safety is likely to be  
29 endangered by disclosing the information;

30                  [(vii)]   (VIII)   To the appropriate public school superintendent for the  
31 purpose of carrying out appropriate personnel or administrative actions following a  
32 report of suspected child abuse involving a student committed by:

33                           1.     A public school employee in that school system;

34                           2.     An independent contractor who supervises or works  
35 directly with students in that school system; or

36                           3.     An employee of an independent contractor, including a bus  
37 driver or bus assistant, who supervises or works directly with students in that school  
38 system;

1 [(viii)] (IX) To the director of a licensed child care facility or licensed  
2 child placement agency for the purpose of carrying out appropriate personnel actions  
3 following a report of suspected child neglect or abuse alleged to have been committed  
4 by an employee of the facility or agency and involving a child who is currently or who  
5 was previously under that facility's or agency's care; or

6 [(ix)] (X) To the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Monitor  
7 established under Article 49D of the Code.

8 (C) A RECORD OR REPORT CONCERNING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT  
9 DISCLOSED TO A MEMBER OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL UNDER SUBSECTION  
10 (B)(2)(IV) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT CONTAIN IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, AS  
11 DEFINED IN § 5-701 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

12 [(c)] (D) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit:

13 (1) The publication, for administrative or research purposes, of statistics  
14 or other data so classified as to prevent the identification of particular persons or  
15 cases;

16 (2) The Department of Human Resources from obtaining an individual's  
17 financial records from a fiduciary institution in the course of verifying the  
18 individual's eligibility for public assistance; or

19 (3) Disclosures as permitted by § 1-303 of the Financial Institutions  
20 Article.

21 [(d)] (E) The Department of Human Resources shall issue regulations  
22 governing access to and use of confidential information which is in the possession of  
23 the Department or local departments of social services.

24 [(e)] (F) Any offense against the provisions of this section shall be a  
25 misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment  
26 for not exceeding 90 days, or both, in the discretion of the court.

27 **Article - Family Law**

28 **SUBTITLE 13. CHILD WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY.**

29 5-1301.

30 (A) **THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE SECRETARY OF**  
31 **BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTCOME BASED**  
32 **SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILD**  
33 **WELFARE SERVICES ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**

34 (B) **THE OUTCOME BASED SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY SHALL SUPPLEMENT**  
35 **EXISTING PERFORMANCE BASED SYSTEMS AND THE EXISTING PERFORMANCE**  
36 **BASED SYSTEM SHALL BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVED.**

1 (C) OUTCOME MEASUREMENT SHALL ADDRESS THE AREAS OF SAFETY,  
2 PERMANENCE, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE  
3 SYSTEM AND SHALL BE MEASURED BY THE INDICATORS IN §§ 5-1302 THROUGH  
4 5-1305 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5 5-1302.

6 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF  
7 CHILDREN SHALL BE MEASURED BY ~~A VARIETY OF INDICATORS, INCLUDING:~~

8 ~~(1) THE INCIDENCE OF UNREPORTED CHILD MALTREATMENT;~~

9 ~~(2) THE RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT OF VICTIMS OF~~  
10 ~~SUBSTANTIATED OR INDICATED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT; AND~~

11 ~~(3) THE RECURRENCE OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN HOMES WHERE~~  
12 ~~CHILDREN WERE NOT REMOVED FROM THE HOME~~ AN OUTCOME MEASUREMENT  
13 SYSTEM THAT EXPANDS ON FEDERAL OUTCOME MEASURES, AND IS USED TO  
14 MEASURE PERFORMANCE AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.

15 5-1303.

16 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN REMOVED FROM  
17 THEIR HOMES FROM FURTHER ABUSE OR NEGLECT SHALL BE MEASURED BY A  
18 VARIETY OF INDICATORS, INCLUDING:

19 (1) THE RATES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IN THE  
20 CUSTODY OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY  
21 FOR PLACEMENTS:

22 (I) IN FOSTER HOMES;

23 (II) IN KINSHIP CARE HOMES;

24 (III) IN GROUP OR RESIDENTIAL CARE;

25 (IV) WITH FAMILY MEMBERS; AND

26 (V) IN OTHER FORMS OF SUBSTITUTE CARE;

27 (2) THE EFFECTIVENESS AND TIMELINESS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF  
28 REPORTS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION; AND

29 (3) THE RATES OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT FOLLOWING  
30 PERMANENCY.

31 5-1304.

32 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PERMANENCY AND STABILITY  
33 IN THE LIVING SITUATIONS OF CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL

1 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY SHALL BE MEASURED  
2 BY A VARIETY OF INDICATORS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

3 (1) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE FAMILY  
4 PRESERVATION SERVICES AND WHO ARE ABLE TO REMAIN SAFELY IN THEIR OWN  
5 HOMES;

6 (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO ENTER CARE WITHOUT  
7 HAVING RECEIVED FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES;

8 (3) THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR CHILDREN TO EXIT FOSTER CARE;

9 (4) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE PLACEMENTS IN  
10 FOSTER CARE;

11 ~~(5) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE REENTERED FOSTER~~  
12 ~~CARE OR HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE~~  
13 ~~SERVICES AFTER A PRIOR FOSTER CARE EPISODE;~~

14 ~~(6)~~ (6) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL  
15 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY WHO HAVE SIBLINGS  
16 LIVING IN DIFFERENT PLACEMENTS;

17 ~~(7)~~ (6) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE  
18 CARE SETTINGS;

19 ~~(8)~~ (7) THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME, CALCULATED BY MEAN AND  
20 MEDIAN, NEEDED TO ACHIEVE EACH TYPE OF PERMANENCY PLAN FOR CHILDREN,  
21 INCLUDING NECESSARY MILESTONES FOR ACHIEVING ADOPTIONS, AND THE  
22 PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM THOSE PLANS ARE ESTABLISHED;

23 ~~(9)~~ (8) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH PERMANENCY PLANS  
24 OF REUNIFICATION WHO RECEIVE WEEKLY VISITS WITH THEIR PARENTS AND MORE  
25 FREQUENT EXTENDED VISITS WITHIN A 2-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE  
26 SCHEDULED DATE OF REUNIFICATION;

27 ~~(10)~~ (9) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN OVER THE AGE OF 4 YEARS  
28 FOR WHOM A PLAN OF ADOPTION IS ESTABLISHED AND WHO ARE ADOPTED;

29 ~~(11)~~ (10) THE GAIN OR LOSS OF FOSTER HOMES AVAILABLE FOR  
30 CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A  
31 PLACEMENT AGENCY;

32 ~~(12)~~ (11) THE PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER HOMES AND KINSHIP CARE  
33 HOMES RECEIVING DAY CARE, RESPITE CARE, AND COMPARABLE SUPPORTIVE  
34 SERVICES; AND

35 ~~(13)~~ (12) THE PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER HOMES AND KINSHIP CARE  
36 HOMES FOR WHICH THE FOLLOWING HAVE NOT BEEN CONDUCTED ON A TIMELY  
37 BASIS:

- 1 (I) REQUIRED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS;  
 2 (II) FIRE AND SAFETY INSPECTIONS;  
 3 (III) HEALTH CHECKS;  
 4 (IV) RECONSIDERATIONS; AND  
 5 (V) OTHER SAFETY MEASURES.

6 5-1305.

7 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH,  
 8 EDUCATION, FINANCIAL STABILITY, AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN THE  
 9 CUSTODY OF LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, PLACEMENT AGENCIES,  
 10 OR WITH FAMILY MEMBERS, SHALL BE MEASURED BY A VARIETY OF INDICATORS,  
 11 INCLUDING:

12 (1) THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARENTS, ACCORDING TO  
 13 THE TERMS AND TIMELINESS ESTABLISHED IN CASE PLANS AND SERVICE  
 14 AGREEMENTS, THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF  
 15 PARENTS THAT RESULTED IN THE PLACEMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN INTO  
 16 OUT-OF-HOME CARE; AND

17 (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE ALL MEDICAL,  
 18 MENTAL HEALTH, DENTAL, EDUCATION, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND OTHER  
 19 SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR THEIR WELL-BEING AND FINANCIAL STABILITY, AS  
 20 REQUIRED BY LAW, REGULATION, CONSENT DECREE, AND PROFESSIONAL  
 21 STANDARDS AS DEVELOPED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS OR THE  
 22 CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA; ~~AND~~

23 ~~(3) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD WHO EXIT~~  
 24 ~~THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A PLACEMENT~~  
 25 ~~AGENCY WHO:~~

26 ~~(I) HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AT THE TIME OF THEIR EXIT~~  
 27 ~~FROM OUT OF HOME CARE;~~

28 ~~(II) HAVE SAFE, ADEQUATE, AND APPROPRIATE HOUSING FROM~~  
 29 ~~THE TIME OF THEIR EXIT FROM OUT OF HOME CARE UNTIL THE AGE OF 21; AND~~

30 ~~(III) ARE EITHER EMPLOYED WITH SUFFICIENT WAGES TO HAVE~~  
 31 ~~ADEQUATE INDEPENDENCE OR ARE ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION.~~

32 5-1306.

33 WHEN THE CHILDREN'S ELECTRONIC SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION  
 34 EXCHANGE, KNOWN AS CHESSIE, IS OPERATIONAL, THE MEASURES IN §§ 5-1302  
 35 THROUGH 5-1305 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE FOLLOWING OUTCOME MEASURES  
 36 SHALL BE USED BY LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE SOCIAL

1 SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND MAY BE USED BY THE ~~TEAM~~ ACCOUNTABILITY  
 2 COUNCIL ESTABLISHED IN § 5-1309 OF THIS SUBTITLE:

3 (1) THE PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE  
 4 OR KINSHIP CARE IN THE REPORT YEAR WHO ARE ENROLLED IN MEDICAID AND  
 5 HAVE A DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITHIN 10 DAYS OF ENTRY INTO  
 6 OUT-OF-HOME CARE;

7 (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE OR KINSHIP CARE  
 8 THAT RECEIVE AGE APPROPRIATE EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING DIAGNOSIS AND  
 9 TREATMENT SERVICES IN THE REPORT YEAR;

10 ~~(3) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE~~  
 11 ~~PERFORMING AT PROFICIENT OR ADVANCED LEVELS ON STANDARDIZED STATE~~  
 12 ~~EDUCATIONAL TESTS;~~

13 ~~(4)~~ (I) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE ACTIVE MEDICAL  
 14 ASSISTANCE CARDS AND NUMBERS; AND

15 (II) IF ANY DELAYS OF MORE THAN 48 HOURS OCCURRED IN THE  
 16 PROVISION OF CARDS AND NUMBERS, THE STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE  
 17 LENGTH OF TIME FOR THE DELAYS; AND

18 ~~(5)~~ ~~(4)~~ ALL OTHER INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE STATE OR  
 19 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE MARYLAND CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM,  
 20 INCLUDING:

21 (I) CHILD WELFARE AND ADULT SERVICE PERFORMANCE SYSTEM  
 22 CRITERIA, ALSO KNOWN AS CAPS;

23 (II) ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS AND REPORTING  
 24 SYSTEM CRITERIA, ALSO KNOWN AS AFCARS; AND

25 (III) L.J. V. MASSINGA CONSENT DECREE CRITERIA, ALSO KNOWN AS  
 26 L.J.

27 5-1307.

28 (A) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
 29 CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LAWYERS FOR  
 30 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT  
 31 OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY SHALL DEVELOP A PROTOCOL FOR  
 32 THE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF CASEWORK SERVICES THROUGH IN-DEPTH  
 33 CASE REVIEWS THAT INVOLVE DIRECT INTERVIEWS BY QUALIFIED AND TRAINED  
 34 REVIEWERS WITH:

35 (1) CHILDREN;

36 (2) FAMILY MEMBERS;

1 (3) CASEWORKERS;

2 (4) OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY SUCH AS:

3 (I) JUDGES;

4 (II) COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES;

5 (III) FOSTER PARENTS;

6 (IV) TEACHERS; AND

7 (V) MEDICAL PERSONNEL; AND

8 (5) OTHERS INVOLVED IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY.

9 (B) THE QUALITY ASSESSMENT SHALL ASSESS BOTH THE FUNCTIONING OF  
10 THE FAMILY AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.

11 (C) THE QUALITY ASSESSMENT SHALL EXAMINE WHETHER THE OUTCOME  
12 INDICATORS ESTABLISHED IN §§ 5-1302 THROUGH 5-1305 OF THIS SUBTITLE HAVE  
13 BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED.

14 (D) IN ADDITION, THE CHILD AND FAMILY CASE REVIEW SHALL DETERMINE  
15 WHETHER:

16 (1) CHILDREN ARE SAFE;

17 (2) THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN ARE MET;

18 (3) THE FAMILY HAS STABILITY;

19 (4) THE PARENTS ARE FULFILLING THEIR PARENTING  
20 RESPONSIBILITIES; AND

21 (5) THE VISITATION BETWEEN SEPARATED FAMILY MEMBERS IS  
22 OCCURRING FREQUENTLY AND REGULARLY.

23 (E) THE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE REVIEW SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER:

24 (1) (I) THE FAMILY PARTICIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
25 SERVICE AGREEMENT AND THE CASE PLAN;

26 (II) THE SERVICE AGREEMENT ADDRESSED THE BEHAVIORS AND  
27 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO CHILD MALTREATMENT; AND

28 (III) THE CASE PLAN AND SERVICE AGREEMENT WERE TIMELY  
29 INITIATED;

30 (2) (I) THE CASE PLAN WAS IMPLEMENTED AND PROGRESS WAS  
31 MADE; AND

1 (II) THE CASE PLAN AND SERVICE AGREEMENT WERE TIMELY  
2 CHANGED WHEN APPROPRIATE UNDER AGENCY GUIDELINES WHEN THE PLAN WAS  
3 NOT IMPLEMENTED AND PROGRESS WAS NOT MADE;

4 (3) ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH  
5 THE FAMILY MET AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO MAKE CHANGES TO SERVICES AND  
6 SUPPORTS AS NECESSARY;

7 (4) THE COURT AND THE CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN  
8 PANEL HEARING THE CASE HAVE ADDRESSED THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD AND THE  
9 FAMILY PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY;

10 (5) (I) A CASEWORKER WAS REGULARLY ASSIGNED AND ACCESSIBLE  
11 TO THE CASE;

12 (II) THE ASSIGNED CASEWORKER VISITED THE CHILD ~~AT THE~~  
13 ~~RESIDENCE OF THE CHILD~~ AT LEAST ONCE PER MONTH; AND

14 (III) A SUPERVISOR HAS BEEN REGULARLY ASSIGNED AND  
15 ACCESSIBLE TO THE CASE; AND

16 (6) MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL, DENTAL, AND OTHER SERVICE  
17 APPOINTMENTS FOR THE CHILD WERE MADE WHEN NECESSARY AND EACH  
18 APPOINTMENT WAS KEPT.

19 5-1308.

20 (A) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL IMPLEMENT A COUNTY  
21 SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS AS A MEANS OF MONITORING THE QUALITY OF CHILD  
22 WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
23 AND THE QUALITY OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES  
24 ADMINISTRATION.

25 (B) A LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF A COUNTY SHALL BE CONDUCTED EVERY ~~2~~ 3  
26 YEARS.

27 (C) IN CONDUCTING THE ASSESSMENT, A COUNTY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO  
28 INCORPORATE THE RESULTS FROM THE OUTCOME MEASURES IN §§ 5-1302 THROUGH  
29 5-1305 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE RESULTS OF THE IN-DEPTH CASE REVIEWS IN §  
30 5-1307 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 (D) AFTER A COUNTY SELF-ASSESSMENT IS ACCEPTED BY THE SOCIAL  
32 SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, THE COUNTY SHALL DEVELOP A CHILD WELFARE PLAN  
33 TO:

34 (1) MAINTAIN PERFORMANCE THAT MEETS STANDARDS;

35 (2) STRENGTHEN AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT; AND

1 (3) DESCRIBE HOW ~~RESOURCES WILL BE SHIFTED OR NEW RESOURCES~~  
 2 ~~OBTAINED TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED WEAKNESSES~~ AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT  
 3 WILL BE ADDRESSED AND HOW IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MEASURED.

4 (E) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS  
 5 GOVERNING THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING:

6 (1) THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT THE  
 7 ASSESSMENT;

8 (2) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS;

9 (3) THE TIMING OF THE ASSESSMENT;

10 (4) THE SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT;

11 (5) THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
 12 MAY ACCEPT OR REJECT THE LOCAL ASSESSMENT AND THE LOCAL CHILD WELFARE  
 13 PLAN; AND

14 (6) THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
 15 SHALL USE THE ASSESSMENTS OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
 16 TO DEVELOP THE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT UNDER TITLE 45 § 1355.33(B) OF THE  
 17 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

18 5-1309.

19 (A) THERE IS A ~~TEAM~~ CHILD WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL TO PLAN  
 20 ~~AND OVERSEE, REVIEW, ASSESS, AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE~~  
 21 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES IN §§ 5-1302  
 22 THROUGH 5-1305 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN §  
 23 5-1308 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

24 (B) MEMBERS OF THE ~~TEAM~~ ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE  
 25 RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CHILDREN'S ELECTRONIC  
 26 SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION EXCHANGE, KNOWN AS CHESSIE, AND OTHER  
 27 SOURCES OF INFORMATION REVIEWED BY THE ~~TEAM~~ ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL.

28 (C) THE ~~TEAM~~ ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF:

29 (1) ~~MEMBERS ONE MEMBER~~ OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED  
 30 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

31 (2) ~~MEMBERS ONE MEMBER~~ OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED  
 32 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

33 (3) ~~MEMBERS ONE MEMBER~~ OF THE JUDICIARY, APPOINTED BY THE  
 34 CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS; AND

35 (4) ~~REPRESENTATIVES ONE REPRESENTATIVE~~ FROM EACH OF THE  
 36 FOLLOWING AGENCIES AND COMMUNITIES, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

1 (I) THE CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN;

2 (II) THE CHILD ADVOCACY COMMUNITY, INCLUDING  
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY COURT-CERTIFIED CLASS OF CHILDREN RECEIVING  
4 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES;

5 (III) THE CHILD WELFARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY, INCLUDING  
6 FOSTER PARENTS AND KINSHIP CAREGIVERS;

7 (IV) THE LEGAL AID BUREAU;

8 (V) THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS;

9 (VI) THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER;

10 (VII) ~~THE OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES~~ THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES;

12 (VIII) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;

13 (IX) EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES;

14 (X) THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES;

15 (XI) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

16 (XII) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

17 (XIII) THE STATE COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT; ~~AND~~

18 (XIV) THE STATE CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM; AND

19 (XV) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.

20 (D) THE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL SHALL SELECT THE CHAIR OF THE  
21 ADVISORY BOARD.

22 (E) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR  
23 THE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL.

24 (F) THE ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL SHALL MEET QUARTERLY AND SHALL  
25 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNUALLY BY  
26 DECEMBER 1.

27 ~~(D)~~ (G) THE MEMBERS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION AND  
28 THE AGENCIES LISTED IN SUBSECTION (C)(4)(VII) THROUGH (XII) OF THIS SECTION  
29 SHALL CLARIFY THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AND  
30 SHALL IDENTIFY WAYS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE AGENCIES.

31 ~~(E)~~ (H) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2005, THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN  
32 RESOURCES SHALL SUBMIT A DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO THE GOVERNOR

1 AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY.

3 (2) (I) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2006, AND EACH YEAR  
4 THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL SUBMIT TO THE  
5 GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE  
6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A DETAILED REPORT BY JURISDICTION OF THE OUTCOME AND  
7 PERFORMANCE MEASURES IN §§ 5-1302 THROUGH 5-1305 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

8 (II) IF THE NATIONAL CHILD MALTREATMENT INCIDENCE STUDY  
9 IS REPLICATED IN THE STATE DURING THE REPORT YEAR, THE REPORT SHALL  
10 INCLUDE THE INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN THE COMMUNITY AS  
11 PROVIDED THROUGH THE STUDY.

12 5-1310.

13 THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND  
14 MANAGEMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED CHILD  
15 WELFARE STAFF, AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 88A, § 3A OF THE CODE, ARE HIRED AND  
16 RETAINED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE APPROPRIATE CASELOAD RATIOS IN ALL CHILD  
17 WELFARE SERVICES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF  
18 AMERICA.

19 5-1311.

20 (A) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
21 MARYLAND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, SHALL ESTABLISH A  
22 COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE TRAINING ACADEMY TO ENSURE THAT THE  
23 FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE TRAINED TOGETHER ON CHILD WELFARE BEST  
24 PRACTICES AND THE PROVISION OF HIGH QUALITY SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND  
25 FAMILIES:

26 (1) CHILD WELFARE STAFF;

27 (2) CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS;

28 (3) FOSTER PARENTS;

29 (4) KINSHIP CAREGIVERS; AND

30 (5) CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.

31 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
32 MARYLAND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, SHALL ESTABLISH A  
33 UNIVERSITY-BASED INFORMATION REPOSITORY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES AND TO  
34 WHICH ALL STATE AGENCIES SUBSTANTIVELY INVOLVED WITH ABUSED OR  
35 NEGLECTED CHILDREN SHALL CONTRIBUTE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION.

36 (C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN 2006, AND  
37 EVERY 6 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL

1 REQUEST THAT THE UNIVERSITY THAT HOUSES THE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION  
2 REPOSITORY REPLICATE THE MOST RECENT NATIONAL CHILD MALTREATMENT  
3 INCIDENCE STUDY IN THE STATE.

4           (2)     THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DO  
5 NOT APPLY IF:

6           (I)     THE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN THE MOST RECENT  
7 NATIONAL CHILD MALTREATMENT INCIDENCE STUDY; AND

8           (II)    THE MOST RECENT NATIONAL CHILD MALTREATMENT  
9 INCIDENCE STUDY IS LESS THAN 2 YEARS OLD.

10 5-1312.

11       (A)     THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL PURSUE  
12 AGGRESSIVELY NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF  
13 SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

14       (B)     THE STATE SHALL NEGOTIATE THE COST OF ACCREDITATION WITH THE  
15 COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE THE PROCESS OF  
16 ACCREDITATION MORE AFFORDABLE.

17 5-1313.

18       ON OR BEFORE ~~SEPTEMBER 1, 2006~~ JANUARY 1, 2007, THE SECRETARY OF  
19 BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL ASSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FULLY  
20 OPERATIONAL STATEWIDE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM, THE  
21 CHILDREN'S ELECTRONIC SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION EXCHANGE, ALSO  
22 KNOWN AS CHESSIE, IN ALL JURISDICTIONS.

23 5-1314.

24       (A)     ON OR BEFORE ~~DECEMBER 1, 2005~~ JANUARY 1, 2007, THE SECRETARY OF  
25 HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL  
26 REVISE THE ACCOUNTING STRUCTURE AND WORKLOAD MEASURES USED BY THE  
27 SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL  
28 SERVICES TO:

29           (1)     SEPARATE AND TRACK EXPENDITURES BY CHILD, FAMILY,  
30 PLACEMENT TYPE, PROVIDER, AND JURISDICTIONS;

31           (2)     ENABLE FLEXIBLE SPENDING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO MEET THE  
32 NEEDS OF THE FAMILIES AND TO PROMOTE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY; AND

33           (3)     GAIN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT IN ORDER TO  
34 PERMIT MORE FLEXIBILITY IN SPENDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILIES  
35 WHILE REDUCING RELIANCE ON HIGH-COST PLACEMENTS.

36       (B)     THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:

1 (1) COMPARE MARYLAND EXPENDITURES ON CHILD WELFARE TO THAT  
2 OF COMPARABLE STATES;

3 (2) DEVELOP A TREND ANALYSIS THAT EXAMINES CHILD WELFARE  
4 POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE STATE AND IN BALTIMORE CITY OVER THE PAST 3  
5 YEARS AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS;

6 (3) USE THE TREND ANALYSIS TO COMPARE PAST AND PROJECTED  
7 SPENDING BY CATEGORY;

8 (4) CALCULATE THE INVESTMENTS IN WORKFORCE, FOSTER HOMES,  
9 KINSHIP CARE HOMES, AND OTHER SERVICES NEEDED TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON  
10 COSTLY GROUP HOME AND INSTITUTIONAL FORMS OF CARE;

11 (5) ANALYZE, SEPARATELY FOR BALTIMORE CITY AND THE STATE, HOW  
12 POTENTIAL SAVINGS FROM A REDUCTION OF COSTLY FORMS OF CARE MAY BE A  
13 FUNDING SOURCE FOR ADDITIONAL PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION  
14 SERVICES; AND

15 (6) USE GEOCODING TECHNOLOGY TO MAP THE CHILD WELFARE  
16 POPULATION TO DETERMINE THE AREAS OF THE STATE THAT SHALL BE GIVEN  
17 FIRST PRIORITY IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AND IN IMPLEMENTATION  
18 EFFORTS.

19 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL PROVIDE TO THE GOVERNOR AND,  
21 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
22 SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, THE SENATE BUDGET AND  
23 TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE SENATE  
24 JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE;

25 ~~(1)~~ ON OR BEFORE ~~JANUARY 15, 2006~~ JANUARY 1, 2007, A FISCAL NEED  
26 AND FUNDING GAP ANALYSIS REPORT THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES  
27 DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBTITLE; AND

28 ~~(2)~~ ~~ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2005, AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT~~  
29 ~~OF A FISCAL NEED AND FUNDING GAP ANALYSIS REPORT, A REPORT~~ REPORTS ON:

30 ~~(1)~~ (1) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES THE DEPARTMENT OF  
31 HUMAN RESOURCES ANTICIPATES SERVING THROUGH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM  
32 IN LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES;

33 ~~(2)~~ (2) THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
34 RESOURCES INTENDS TO SERVE THAT POPULATION CONSISTENT WITH THE  
35 OUTCOMES OUTLINED IN THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING PLANNED STAFFING LEVELS;

36 ~~(3)~~ (3) THE IDEAL SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM REQUIRED TO  
37 SERVE THAT POPULATION BASED ON NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE BEST PRACTICES  
38 AND THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THIS SUBTITLE;

1                   ~~(IV)~~ (4) A GAP ANALYSIS OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE STATE  
2 CAPACITY COMPARED TO THE IDEAL SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM;

3                   ~~(V)~~ (5) A CALCULATION OF THE COST TO IMPLEMENT THE IDEAL  
4 SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM IDENTIFIED TO SERVE THE ANTICIPATED POPULATION;  
5 AND

6                   ~~(VI)~~ (6) A DETERMINATION OF THE CURRENT FUNDING GAP  
7 BETWEEN THE FISCAL NEED FOR THE IDEAL SYSTEM AND CURRENT FUNDING FOR  
8 THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.

9     ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Human~~  
10 ~~Resources and the Secretary of Budget and Management shall provide to the~~  
11 ~~Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the~~  
12 ~~General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2005, a plan for implementation of~~  
13 ~~reduced caseload ratios using the ratios recommended by the Child Welfare League of~~  
14 ~~America.~~

15     SECTION ~~3.~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
16 Human Resources shall develop a new vision and a set of principles for the child  
17 welfare system through which workers, supervisors, and administrators will operate  
18 and on which the system will be judged. To develop a new vision and a set of  
19 principles, the Department shall convene a group comprised of department  
20 administrators, legislators, court representatives, children's attorneys, parents'  
21 attorneys, attorneys for any certified class of children or parents, Court Appointed  
22 Special Advocates, local department administrators, line staff, and supervisors,  
23 advocates, providers, foster parents, foster children, and families involved in the child  
24 welfare system.

25     SECTION ~~4.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
26 Human Resources shall reexamine and clarify key office roles and the relationship of  
27 the central office to the county offices regarding issues such as the organizational  
28 structure of the Department, contracting for services, and the allocation of staff.

29     SECTION ~~5.~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Citizens' Review  
30 Board for Children shall provide, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
31 Government Article, to the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2005, a report  
32 on proposed changes to its operations, recommended changes in its enabling  
33 legislation, and an analysis showing how current staff resources will be shifted to  
34 implement the goals of this Act.

35     SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
36 Human Resources shall use the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Welfare  
37 Accountability to develop an outcome measurement system as described in § 5-1302  
38 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

39     SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State shall contract  
40 for a review of Title IV-E federal funding maximization issues. The Department of  
41 Budget and Management shall ensure that any new revenues obtained in the review

1 remain within the appropriate agency in order to improve services to children and  
2 families.

3 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
4 effect June 1, 2005.