
By: **Delegates Branch, Anderson, Barve, Bohanan, Cadden, G. Clagett, Conway, DeBoy, Doory, Eckardt, Franchot, Gaines, Griffith, Haynes, James, Jones, Leopold, Levy, Madaleno, Marriott, McIntosh, Niemann, Paige, Proctor, Rosenberg, and F. Turner F. Turner, Barkley, Bates, Aumann, Edwards, O'Donnell, and Stocksdale**

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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Welfare Accountability Act of 2006**

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 efficiency and effectiveness of certain child
6 welfare services; providing for the purpose of the outcome measurement system;
7 requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to adopt regulations; requiring a
8 variety of indicators to be used to measure the effectiveness of certain child
9 welfare services; requiring certain measures to be utilized by certain entities;
10 requiring the Department of Human Resources to have a quality assessment
11 process for casework services; authorizing a certain entity to review and provide
12 guidance on the quality assessment process of the Department of Human
13 Resources; requiring certain case reviews and system performance reviews to
14 make certain determinations; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to
15 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a certain entity to assist in the
16 development and implementation of a local department self-assessment process
17 at certain intervals and requiring a local department of social services to
18 incorporate certain results; requiring the local department of social services to
19 develop a child welfare plan after a certain requirement is met; requiring the
20 Secretary of Human Resources to adopt certain regulations; requiring the
21 Secretary of Human Resources to enter into a memorandum of understanding
22 with a certain entity to collect and maintain certain information; requiring
23 certain information to be reported at a certain time; authorizing certain units of
24 State government to contribute information to a certain entity; requiring the

1 Secretary of Human Resources and the Secretary of Budget and Management to
2 ensure that certain caseload ratios are achieved using certain criteria; requiring
3 the Department of Human Resources, in consultation with a certain entity, to
4 develop a methodology to calculate caseload ratios; requiring the Department of
5 Human Resources to enter into a written contract with a certain entity to
6 annually review the calculation of caseload ratios used by the Department of
7 Human Resources; requiring the Department of Human Resources to establish a
8 Child Welfare Training Academy and train certain individuals; authorizing the
9 Department of Human Resources to provide training to certain individuals;
10 requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to submit a certain report on the
11 outcome measurement system on or before a certain date; requiring the outcome
12 measurement system indicators to be based on certain information; requiring
13 the Child and Family Services Advisory Board in the Department of Human
14 Resources to review, assess, and provide guidance on the outcome-based system
15 of accountability; requiring the Department of Human Resources to pursue
16 national accreditation for each local department of social services; requiring the
17 Department of Human Resources to study the recruitment, selection, and
18 retention of the child welfare workforce and submit a report to certain entities;
19 requiring the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of
20 Human Resources, on or before a certain date, to report on an assessment of
21 certain accounting structures and workload measures; requiring the Secretary
22 of Human Resources and the University of Maryland School of Social Work, on
23 or before a certain date, to enter into a memorandum of understanding to
24 implement a local department self-assessment process and to collect and
25 maintain certain data; requiring the University of Maryland School of Social
26 Work to report on the measurement of performance and the collection of certain
27 data; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to enter into a contract with
28 the Child Welfare League of America for certain activities related to caseload
29 ratios on or before a certain date; providing for a delayed effective date for
30 certain provisions of this Act; ~~providing for the effective dates of this Act;~~
31 providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; defining certain
32 terms; and generally relating to child welfare accountability.

33 BY adding to
34 Article - Family Law
35 Section 5-1301 through 5-1311, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
36 13. Child Welfare Accountability"
37 Annotated Code of Maryland
38 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

39 Preamble

40 WHEREAS, Each year the Maryland child welfare system touches the lives of
41 90,000 children and their families; and

42 WHEREAS, When abused and neglected children do not receive necessary,
43 timely, and appropriate services and interventions, the human and social costs are
44 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, The Governor's Office for Children and the Children's Cabinet will
14 work together to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

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

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

20

Article - Family Law

21

SUBTITLE 13. CHILD WELFARE ACCOUNTABILITY.

22 5-1301.

23 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
24 INDICATED.

25 (B) "ABUSE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701 OF THIS TITLE.

26 (C) "ADMINISTRATION" MEANS THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OF
27 THE DEPARTMENT.

28 (D) "CHILD" MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

29 (E) "INDICATED" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701 OF THIS TITLE.

30 (F) "KINSHIP CARE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-501 OF THIS TITLE.

31 (G) "LOCAL DEPARTMENT" ~~MEANS A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL~~
32 ~~SERVICES FOR A COUNTY~~ HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

33 (H) "NEGLECT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701 OF THIS TITLE.

1 (I) "OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT" MEANS PLACEMENT OF A CHILD INTO
2 FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, GROUP CARE, OR RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CARE.

3 (J) "RULED OUT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701 OF THIS TITLE.

4 (K) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

5 (L) "UNSUBSTANTIATED" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701 OF THIS
6 TITLE.

7 5-1302.

8 (A) THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
9 SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTCOME-BASED SYSTEM OF
10 ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MEASURING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILD
11 WELFARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE STATE.

12 (B) THE OUTCOME MEASUREMENT SYSTEM SHALL:

13 (1) ADDRESS AREAS OF SAFETY, PERMANENCE, AND WELL-BEING FOR
14 ALL CHILDREN IN THE STATE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM;

15 (2) MEASURE PERFORMANCE AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS;

16 (3) EXPAND ON FEDERAL OUTCOME MEASURES; ~~AND~~

17 (4) USE THE INDICATORS IN §§ 5-1303 THROUGH 5-1306 OF THIS
18 SUBTITLE TO MEASURE OUTCOMES; AND

19 (5) BE USED IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL
20 MANAGING FOR RESULTS SUBMISSION.

21 (C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH
22 GUIDELINES FOR THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AT THE STATE AND LOCAL
23 LEVELS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

24 5-1303.

25 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
26 SHALL BE MEASURED BY:

27 (1) THE RECURRENCE WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF CHILD ABUSE OR
28 NEGLECT AMONG VICTIMS OF INDICATED ABUSE OR NEGLECT;

29 (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF SCREENED OUT REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR
30 NEGLECT THAT ARE DOCUMENTED AS REVIEWED BY A SUPERVISOR;

31 (3) THE INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT FOR A CHILD WHO, IN
32 THE PRIOR 12 MONTHS, WAS NOT REMOVED FROM THE HOME FOLLOWING AN
33 INVESTIGATION THAT FOUND INDICATED OR UNSUBSTANTIATED ABUSE OR
34 NEGLECT;

1 (4) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES
2 INVESTIGATIONS THAT ARE INITIATED AND COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
3 5-706 OF THIS TITLE;

4 (5) FOR ALL INDICATED AND SUBSTANTIATED CASES OF ABUSE AND
5 NEGLECT, THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO:

6 (I) RECEIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES; AND

7 (II) ARE ABLE TO REMAIN SAFELY IN THEIR OWN HOMES FOR 18
8 MONTHS AFTER RECEIVING FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES; AND

9 (6) ANY OTHER INDICATORS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER §
10 5-1302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

11 5-1304.

12 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN REMOVED FROM
13 THEIR HOMES FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT SHALL BE MEASURED BY:

14 (1) THE INCIDENCE OF INDICATED OR UNSUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS OF
15 CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL
16 DEPARTMENT, OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY, FOR PLACEMENTS:

17 (I) IN FOSTER CARE HOMES;

18 (II) IN KINSHIP CARE HOMES;

19 (III) IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS OR GROUP HOMES;

20 (IV) WITH FAMILY MEMBERS; AND

21 (V) IN OTHER FORMS OF SUBSTITUTE CARE;

22 (2) THE INCIDENCE OF INDICATED OR UNSUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS OF
23 CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT WITHIN 12 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE
24 CHILD COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT; AND

25 (3) ANY OTHER INDICATORS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER §
26 5-1302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 5-1305.

28 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PERMANENCY AND STABILITY
29 IN THE LIVING SITUATIONS OF CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL
30 DEPARTMENT, OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY, SHALL BE MEASURED BY:

31 (1) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO EXIT FOSTER CARE WITHIN ~~18~~
32 MONTHS AFTER INITIAL PLACEMENT TIME PERIODS CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL
33 NATIONAL STANDARDS WITH A BREAKDOWN BY EACH STANDARD;

1 (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH ~~MULTIPLE PLACEMENTS IN~~
2 ~~FOSTER CARE~~ MORE THAN TWO OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS DURING A REPORT
3 YEAR;

4 (3) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL
5 DEPARTMENT, OR A PLACEMENT AGENCY, WHO HAVE SIBLINGS LIVING IN
6 DIFFERENT PLACEMENTS;

7 (4) ~~THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH PERMANENCY PLANS OF~~
8 ~~REUNIFICATION WHO RECEIVE:~~

9 (4) ~~WEEKLY VISITS WITH THEIR PARENTS; AND~~

10 (4) ~~MORE FREQUENT EXTENDED VISITS WITHIN A 2-MONTH~~
11 ~~PERIOD PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DATE OF REUNIFICATION;~~

12 (5) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO EXIT FOSTER CARE AND ARE:

13 (I) REUNIFIED WITH A PARENT OR GUARDIAN;

14 (II) PLACED WITH A RELATIVE WHO IS AWARDED CUSTODY AND
15 GUARDIANSHIP;

16 (III) ADOPTED; OR

17 (IV) PLACED WITH A NONRELATED GUARDIAN;

18 (6) (5) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN AN OUT-OF-HOME
19 PLACEMENT LIVING IN:

20 (I) KINSHIP CARE HOMES;

21 (II) RESTRICTED FOSTER HOMES;

22 (III) REGULAR FOSTER HOMES;

23 (IV) TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES;

24 (V) GROUP HOMES;

25 (VI) RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS; AND

26 (VII) OTHER SPECIFIED TYPES OF PLACEMENTS;

27 (7) (6) THE NUMBER OF FOSTER HOMES AND TREATMENT FOSTER
28 HOMES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT, OR A
29 PLACEMENT AGENCY;

30 (8) ~~THE PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER HOMES AND KINSHIP CARE HOMES~~
31 ~~RECEIVING:~~

1 (4) ~~DAY CARE; AND~~

2 (4) ~~RESPIRE CARE;~~

3 (9) (7) THE PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER HOMES AND KINSHIP CARE
4 HOMES IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ~~ON A TIMELY BASIS~~
5 ACCORDING TO REGULATION:

6 (I) REQUIRED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS;

7 (II) FIRE AND SAFETY INSPECTIONS;

8 (III) HEALTH AND SAFETY CHECKS;

9 (IV) RECONSIDERATIONS, AS APPLICABLE; AND

10 (V) ANY OTHER SAFETY MEASURES ADOPTED BY REGULATION;

11 (10) (8) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ARE RECOMMITTED TO THE
12 DEPARTMENT WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF RELEASE FROM COMMITMENT TO THE
13 DEPARTMENT; AND

14 (11) (9) ANY OTHER INDICATORS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER
15 § 5-1302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

16 5-1306.

17 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH,
18 EDUCATION, AND WELL-BEING OF A CHILD COMMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
19 SHALL BE MEASURED BY:

20 (1) ~~THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARENTS, ACCORDING TO~~
21 ~~THE TERMS AND TIMELINESS OF CASE PLANS AND SERVICE AGREEMENTS, THAT ARE~~
22 ~~APPROPRIATE FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF PARENTS THAT RESULTED IN~~
23 ~~THE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD;~~

24 (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS
25 WHO RECEIVED A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL
26 REGULATIONS FOR THE EARLY AND PERIODIC, SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND
27 TREATMENT PROGRAM WITHIN 60 DAYS OF ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT;

28 (3) (2) THE PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER
29 CARE OR KINSHIP CARE WHO:

30 (I) HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY A MEDICAL PROVIDER WITHIN 10
31 DAYS OF ENTRY INTO THE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT; AND

32 (II) HAVE A DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITHIN 10 DAYS
33 OF ENTRY INTO THE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT; ~~AND~~

1 (3) THE PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME
2 PLACEMENTS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL; AND

3 (4) ANY OTHER INDICATORS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER §
4 5-1302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5 5-1307.

6 (A) THE MEASURES IN §§ 5-1303 THROUGH 5-1306 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE
7 USED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS AND THE ADMINISTRATION, AND MAY BE USED
8 BY AN ENTITY THAT ENTERS INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
9 DEPARTMENT, TO MEASURE THE EFFICIENCY AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CHILD
10 WELFARE SERVICES.

11 (B) INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
12 REGARDING THE STATE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM MAY ALSO BE USED BY THE
13 ENTITIES IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS
14 OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

15 (1) THE MARYLAND CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW;

16 (2) THE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS AND REPORTING
17 SYSTEM CRITERIA; AND

18 (3) THE L. J. V. MASSINGA CONSENT DECREE CRITERIA.

19 5-1308.

20 (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE A PROCESS FOR THE ASSESSMENT
21 OF THE QUALITY OF CASEWORK SERVICES.

22 (2) AN ENTITY THAT SPECIALIZES IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES THAT
23 ENTERS INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT MAY
24 REVIEW AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS
25 DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

26 (B) THE QUALITY ASSESSMENT SHALL EXAMINE WHETHER THE OUTCOME
27 INDICATORS ESTABLISHED IN §§ 5-1303 THROUGH 5-1306 OF THIS SUBTITLE HAVE
28 BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED.

29 (C) (1) THE PROCESS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
30 SHALL ASSESS THE QUALITY OF CASEWORK SERVICES THROUGH IN-DEPTH CHILD
31 AND FAMILY CASE REVIEWS THAT INVOLVE DIRECT INTERVIEWS BY QUALIFIED AND
32 TRAINED REVIEWERS WITH:

33 (I) CHILDREN;

34 (II) FAMILY MEMBERS;

35 (III) CASEWORKERS;

- 1 (IV) JUDGES;
- 2 (V) COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES;
- 3 (VI) FOSTER PARENTS;
- 4 (VII) TEACHERS;
- 5 (VIII) MEDICAL PERSONNEL; AND
- 6 (IX) OTHERS INVOLVED IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY.

7 (2) THE CHILD AND FAMILY CASE REVIEWS SHALL DETERMINE
8 WHETHER:

- 9 (I) CHILDREN ARE SAFE;
- 10 (II) THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN ARE MET, SPECIFICALLY THAT THE
11 CHILDREN:

12 1. ARE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AND RECEIVING
13 APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES; AND

14 2. HAVE ALL TIMELY MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND MENTAL
15 HEALTH SERVICES, BASED ON THE CHILD'S NEEDS; AND

16 (III) THE VISITATION BETWEEN SEPARATED FAMILY MEMBERS IS
17 OCCURRING FREQUENTLY AND REGULARLY, CONSISTENT WITH THE BEST
18 INTERESTS OF THE CHILD.

19 (3) THE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER:

20 (I) 1. THE FAMILY PARTICIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
21 THE SERVICE AGREEMENT AND THE CASE PLAN;

22 2. THE SERVICE AGREEMENT ADDRESSED THE BEHAVIORS
23 AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT; AND

24 3. THE CASE PLAN AND SERVICE AGREEMENT WERE TIMELY
25 INITIATED;

26 (II) THE CASE PLAN WAS IMPLEMENTED AND PROGRESS WAS
27 MADE;

28 (III) ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING
29 WITH THE FAMILY AND THE CHILD MET AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO MAKE CHANGES
30 TO SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AS NECESSARY; ~~AND~~

31 (IV) 1. A CASEWORKER WAS PROMPTLY AND REGULARLY
32 ASSIGNED AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE CASE;

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1 (1) THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES;

2 (2) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS;

3 (3) THE TIMING OF THE ASSESSMENT;

4 (4) THE SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT;

5 (5) THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ACCEPT OR
6 REJECT THE LOCAL ASSESSMENT AND THE PLAN; ~~AND~~

7 (6) THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL MONITOR
8 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL PLANS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF
9 THIS SECTION; AND

10 ~~(6)~~ (7) THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL USE
11 THE ASSESSMENTS OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS TO DEVELOP THE STATEWIDE
12 ASSESSMENT UNDER TITLE 45 § 1355.33(B) OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

13 (F) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF
14 UNDERSTANDING WITH AN ENTITY WITH EXPERTISE IN CHILD WELFARE BEST
15 PRACTICES TO COLLECT AND MAINTAIN INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CONDUCT A
16 LOCAL DEPARTMENT SELF-ASSESSMENT AND STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT.

17 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2008, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THE
18 ENTITY THAT ENTERS INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
19 DEPARTMENT, AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
20 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:

21 (I) THE MEASUREMENT OF PERFORMANCE OF THE LOCAL
22 DEPARTMENTS AND THE ADMINISTRATION, AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF
23 THIS SECTION; AND

24 (II) THE INFORMATION COLLECTED AND MAINTAINED UNDER
25 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

26 (3) ANY UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SUBSTANTIVELY INVOLVED
27 WITH ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN MAY CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION TO THE
28 ENTITY PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

29 5-1310.

30 (A) THE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
31 SHALL ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED CHILD WELFARE STAFF,
32 AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 88A, § 3A OF THE CODE, ARE HIRED AND RETAINED IN
33 ORDER TO ACHIEVE CASELOAD RATIOS IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CONSISTENT
34 WITH THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA CASELOAD STANDARDS.

35 (B) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH AN APPROPRIATE ENTITY
36 WITH EXPERTISE IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CASELOAD RATIOS, SHALL DEVELOP

1 A METHODOLOGY TO CALCULATE CASELOAD RATIOS IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
2 FOR THE STATE.

3 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH AN
4 ENTITY THAT HAS EXPERTISE IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CASELOAD RATIOS TO
5 ANNUALLY REVIEW THE CALCULATION OF CASELOAD RATIOS USED BY THE
6 DEPARTMENT.

7 5-1311.

8 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A CHILD WELFARE
9 TRAINING ACADEMY TO PROVIDE TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES FOR THE
10 FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

- 11 (1) CHILD WELFARE STAFF;
- 12 (2) CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS;
- 13 (3) FOSTER PARENTS; AND
- 14 (4) KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.

15 (B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES FOR THE
16 FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

- 17 (1) THE STATE CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN STAFF AND
18 VOLUNTEERS; AND
- 19 (2) COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

21 (1) on or before December 31, 2007, the Secretary of Human Resources
22 shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
23 Article, to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and
24 the House Judiciary Committee, a report on the outcome measurement system, as
25 described in § 5-1302 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act;

26 (2) the outcome measurement system indicators, as described in §
27 5-1303 through § 5-1306 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this
28 Act, shall be based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Welfare
29 Accountability, the Department of Human Resources' Program Improvement Plan,
30 and national best practices; and

31 (3) the Child and Family Services Advisory Board in the Department of
32 Human Resources shall review, assess, and provide guidance on the outcome-based
33 system of accountability, as described in § 5-1302 of the Family Law Article as
34 enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of
2 Human Resources shall pursue national accreditation for each local department of
3 social services.

4 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2007,
5 the Department of Human Resources shall:

6 (1) conduct a comprehensive study of the recruitment, selection, and
7 retention of the child welfare workforce for the purpose of developing strategies to
8 lower the turnover rate and increase the qualifications of the workforce; and

9 (2) in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, report
10 to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations
11 Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee on the findings and
12 recommendations of the Department.

13 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
14 2006, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Human
15 Resources shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations
17 Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee on an assessment of the accounting
18 structure and workload measures used by the Social Services Administration and the
19 local departments of social services to determine the changes that are necessary to
20 adopt the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Welfare Accountability
21 relating to:

22 (1) flexible budgeting to meet the needs of families;

23 (2) cost accounting for the child welfare system; and

24 (3) measuring performance of the child welfare system.

25 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1,
26 2007, the Secretary of Human Resources and the University of Maryland School of
27 Social Work shall enter into a memorandum of understanding setting forth the
28 responsibilities of each entity to implement a local department self-assessment
29 process to monitor the quality of casework services and to collect and maintain child
30 welfare services data.

31 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1,
32 2007, the Secretary of Human Resources shall consult with the Child Welfare League
33 of America to develop a methodology to calculate caseload ratios in child welfare
34 services for the State, and enter into a contract to have the Child Welfare League of
35 America annually review these calculations as provided in § 5-1310 of the Family
36 Law Article as enacted by this Act.

37 SECTION 7. 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act
38 shall take effect January 1, 2007.

1 SECTION ~~8~~ 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
2 Section ~~7~~ 8 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006. ~~Section 6~~ Sections 6 and
3 7 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 6 years and, at the end of June 30,
4 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, ~~Section 6~~ Sections 6
5 and 7 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.