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By: **Delegates Griffith, Bohanan, Branch, Conway, Gaines, Niemann, and
     Rosenberg**
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006
Assigned to: Appropriations
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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2   **Department of Human Resources - Study of Maryland's Child Welfare**
3   **Workforce**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to facilitate the
5   conducting of a comprehensive study of the recruitment, selection, and retention
6   of the child welfare workforce; requiring the Department to report to the
7   Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
8   the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of the State's child
9   welfare workforce conducted by the Department.

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

12   (a)   The Department of Human Resources shall:

13   (1)   facilitate the conducting of a comprehensive study of the recruitment,
14 selection, and retention of the child welfare workforce for the purpose of developing
15 strategies to lower the turnover rate and increase the qualifications of the child
16 welfare workforce; and

17   (2)   seek assistance to conduct the study from the University of Maryland
18 School of Social Work.

19   (b)   The purpose of the study is to evaluate the State's child welfare workforce
20 to determine policy recommendations for improvement of care to some of the State's
21 most vulnerable children.

22   (c)   The study shall determine:

23   (1)   the vacancy rates within the Department of Human Resources;

24   (2)   the number of licensed social workers;

25   (3)   the number of nonlicensed staff;

26   (4)   retention rates; and

1   (5)   any other information necessary to properly evaluate the State's
2 services to children.

3   (d)   On or before July 1, 2007, the Department of Human Resources shall
4 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with
5 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

6   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year, and, at the end of
8 September 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
9 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.