
By: **Delegates Hixson, Anderson, Barkley, Bartlett, Boschert, Bozman, Branch, Bronrott, Brown, Cardin, Cryor, C. Davis, Dumais, Elmore, Feldman, Frush, Gilleland, Goodwin, Gordon, Haynes, Healey, Heller, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Kaiser, King, Kirk, Lawton, Lee, Mandel, Marriott, McKee, Menes, Montgomery, Murray, Niemann, Paige, Patterson, Pugh, Ramirez, Rosenberg, Stern, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Resources - Grandparent Caregiver Subsidy**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to establish and
5 administer a Grandparent Caregiver Subsidy Program; establishing certain
6 eligibility requirements for subsidy payments for grandparent caregivers;
7 requiring the subsidy payments for grandparent caregivers to be set at a certain
8 rate; requiring the Department to adopt regulations to establish eligibility for
9 the Grandparent Caregiver Subsidy Program; and generally relating to subsidy
10 payments for grandparent caregivers.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article - Family Law
13 Section 5-527
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Family Law
18 Section 5-527.1
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Family Law

2 5-527.

3 (a) The Department shall adopt rules and regulations that establish eligibility
4 guidelines for payment for foster care for 1 or more classes of children, including
5 children who are in need of special care.

6 (b) (1) For a child who does not need special care, the Department shall pay
7 for foster care in a single family home at a monthly rate that is not less than 55% of
8 the monthly rate provided in subsection (c) of this section for a child who requires the
9 most demanding special care in a single family home.

10 (2) The monthly rate shall include increments based on the age of the
11 child.

12 (c) The Department shall pay for foster care for a child who needs the most
13 demanding special care in a single family home at a monthly rate that is not less than
14 the higher of:

15 (1) the rate that the Department paid in fiscal year 1975; and

16 (2) the rate that the Department of Juvenile Services pays for the
17 current fiscal year.

18 5-527.1.

19 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A GRANDPARENT
20 CAREGIVER SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE
21 FOR A CHILD.

22 (B) IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SUBSIDY PAYMENT UNDER THIS
23 SECTION, A GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER MUST:

24 (1) POSSESS AN ORDER GRANTING LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILD; AND

25 (2) MEET THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES SET BY THE
26 DEPARTMENT.

27 (C) THE SUBSIDY PAYMENT SHALL BE SET AT A RATE NOT LESS THAN THE
28 RATE FOR FOSTER CARE FOR 1 OR MORE CLASSES OF CHILDREN, INCLUDING
29 CHILDREN WHO ARE IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE, AS PROVIDED IN § 5-527 OF THIS
30 SUBTITLE.

31 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH
32 ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
33 THIS SECTION.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
35 effect October 1, 2006.