
By: **Delegates Branch, Barkley, Bohanan, Conway, DeBoy, Gaines, Griffith,
Haynes, Niemann, and Rosenberg**
Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2006
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Resources - Child Abuse and Neglect - Differential**
3 **Response System Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to conduct a
5 Differential Response System Study on the implementation of a differential
6 response system for allegations of child abuse and neglect in the State;
7 providing for the purpose of the Study; requiring the Department to submit a
8 report on the findings and statutory recommendations of the Study on or before
9 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
10 to the Differential Response System Study.

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

13 (a) The Department of Human Resources shall conduct a Differential
14 Response System Study on the implementation of a differential response system for
15 allegations of child abuse and neglect in the State.

16 (b) The Differential Response System Study shall:

17 (1) define levels of safety concerns associated with allegations of child
18 abuse and neglect in relation to a differential response system, including low safety
19 concerns and high safety concerns;

20 (2) determine specific responses and time frames for initiating and
21 completing responses for varying allegations of child abuse and neglect;

22 (3) develop a database of child welfare programs within local
23 departments and community resources in the State to assist the Department in
24 responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect by providing ongoing family
25 preservation services, when appropriate;

26 (4) develop a plan to implement a differential response system for
27 allegations of child abuse and neglect in the State; and

1 (5) recommend specific statutory changes necessary to implement a
2 differential response system for allegations of child abuse and neglect in the State.

3 (c) On or before December 1, 2006, the Department shall submit a report to
4 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
5 Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House
6 Judiciary Committee, on the findings and statutory recommendations of the
7 Differential Response System Study.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 June 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
10 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
11 abrogated and of no further force and effect.