

SENATE BILL 141

O4
SB 778/05 – B&T

71r0351

By: **Senators Kramer, Britt, Hogan, Kasemeyer, Madaleno, Munson, Muse, Peters, and Robey**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Adoption – Placement Services for Children in Public Foster Care – State**
3 **Contracts with Private Licensed Child Placement Agencies**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to allocate not less
5 than a certain amount of money from the Department's fiscal year 2008 budget
6 appropriations to develop, implement, and monitor a program through which
7 qualified licensed child placement agencies may enter into contracts with the
8 State to provide adoption placement services for Maryland children in public
9 foster care who have no identified permanency resource; and generally relating
10 to the placement of children in public foster care in permanent adoption
11 arrangements.

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, There are approximately 200 Maryland children in public foster
14 care waiting to be adopted for whom there are no families currently identified as being
15 available to adopt them; and

16 WHEREAS, Many children in Maryland foster care have been waiting for more
17 than 5 years to be placed for adoption; and

18 WHEREAS, Adoption presents the best opportunity for permanency when
19 children in public foster care are unable to be safely raised by their birth families; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, There are many licensed private child placement agencies within
2 and outside of Maryland that have the knowledge, expertise, and ability to place
3 children for adoption who are in public foster care; and

4 WHEREAS, There are many families in Maryland who are adopting children in
5 public foster care from other states that provide financial assistance to adoption
6 agencies to help defray the costs of their services; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland does not currently make financial resources
8 available to licensed private child placement agencies to enable those agencies to place
9 children from public foster care for adoption; now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That the Department of Human Resources shall allocate not less than
12 \$500,000 from the Department's fiscal year 2008 budget appropriations to develop,
13 implement, and monitor a program through which qualified licensed child placement
14 agencies may enter into contracts with the State to provide adoption placement
15 services for Maryland children in public foster care who have no identified
16 permanency resource.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2007.