

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 758  
Appropriations

(Delegate Glenn, *et al.*)

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Task Force to Study the Placement of Vulnerable Children

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Placement of Vulnerable Children chaired by the Secretary of Human Resources and staffed by the Department of Human Resources. The task force must study • the process for placing a child with a guardian; • the process for selecting a guardian for an out-of-home placement; • the eligibility procedures for obtaining benefits for a child or guardian; • placement of children without local department of social services' involvement; • limits on the size of foster care families; and • development of a rating mechanism to assess local departments of social services. The task force must submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15, 2009.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008 and terminates December 31, 2009.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DHR are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Child welfare services, provided primarily by DHR through local departments of social services, support the healthy development of families, assist

families and children in need, and protect abused and neglected children. Specific social service programs administered by DHR's Social Services Administration include foster care, family preservation, adoption, child protective services, and family reunification.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2008  
ncs/hlb

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