HOUSE BILL 876

D4 1lr0096

By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Departmental – Human Resources)**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2011
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Single Parent Services – Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing provisions of law requiring the Secretary of Human
4   Resources to establish a single parent services program in each local
5   department of social services; repealing related provisions of law; and generally
6   relating to single parent services.

7 BY repealing
8   Article – Family Law
9   Section 6–101 through 6–103 and the title "Title 6. Single Parents"
10   Annotated Code of Maryland
11   (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Family Law**

15 **[**Title 6. Single Parents.**]**

16 **[**6–101.

17   (a)   In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

18   (b)   Repealed.

19   (c)   "Single parent services" means:

20   (1)   counseling 1 or both parents;

1   (2)   making the parents aware of the need for prenatal care;

2   (3)   helping in a decision about placement for adoption and exploring
3   the involvement of the noncustodial parent;

4   (4)   helping parents prepare for employment and training;

5   (5)   making a referral to a health care provider;

6   (6)   counseling and making a referral for counseling for child rearing
7   problems;

8   (7)   helping make adequate living arrangements; and

9   (8)   examining any aspect of maternal health, child health, and family
10   planning.]

11   [6–102.

12   The General Assembly declares that:

13   (1)   single parents should have access to a comprehensive range of
14   services to enable them to make suitable plans for the care of their children and
15   themselves;

16   (2)   youths under the age of 18 years who are pregnant or who are
17   parents of a child for whom they are unprepared to provide adequate care and
18   protection are of special concern;

19   (3)   this State has a continuing interest in preventing the problems
20   associated with teenage pregnancy;

21   (4)   to the end of preventing the problems associated with teenage
22   pregnancy, single young people who are at risk of parenthood should have access to
23   appropriate counseling and health services; and

24   (5)   if the family of a single parent is unavailable, unwilling, or unable
25   to provide financial, material, and emotional support to a single parent, then this
26   State must provide timely services that will:

27   (i)   be an effective alternative to costly long term foster care;
28   and

29   (ii)   prevent the neglect or abuse of a child of the single parent.]

30   [6–103.

1   (a)   With the advice of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the
2 Secretary of Human Resources shall establish in each local department a single parent
3 services program to carry out the policies set forth in § 6–102 of this title.

4   (b)   The single parent services provided under this program shall be available
5 to any single youth who is:

6   (1)   pregnant;

7   (2)   at risk of parenthood; or

8   (3)   the parent of a child under the age of 3 years.

9   (c)   The Department of Human Resources shall:

10   (1)   adopt rules, regulations, and guidelines for the program in each
11 local department;

12   (2)   continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the single
13 parent services program;

14   (3)   to the extent possible, use grants from federal, State, and other
15 public and private sources to fund the single parent services program;

16   (4)   to the extent possible, coordinate delivery of education, health care,
17 mental health care, employment services, and child day care services to single parents
18 by public and private agencies; and

19   (5)   provide funds for training persons needed to provide adequate
20 services.**]**

21   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2011.