

Chapter 366

**(Senate Bill 567)**

AN ACT concerning

**Department of Human Resources – State Child Welfare System – Report**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources, on or before a certain date each year, to report to the General Assembly certain information regarding children and foster youth in the State child welfare system; requiring the Department to maintain the confidentiality of certain information, ensure that no personally identifiable information is disclosed, and disaggregate certain information in a certain manner; requiring the Department to publish certain reports on the Department’s Web site within a certain time; defining a certain term; and generally relating to children and foster youth in the State child welfare system.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Family Law  
Section 5–1301(a), (d), and (i)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Family Law  
Section 5–1312  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Human Services  
Section 5–304(a)(4)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

**Article – Family Law**

5–1301.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (d) “Child” means any individual under the age of 18 years.

(i) “Out-of-home placement” means placement of a child into foster care, kinship care, group care, or residential treatment care.

**5-1312.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FOSTER YOUTH” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-304 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE.**

**(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING CHILDREN AND FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM:**

**(1) THE NUMBER OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS, ALTERNATIVE RESPONSES, INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSES, AND FINDINGS FOR COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS;**

**(2) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FOSTER YOUTH RECEIVING IN-HOME SERVICES;**

**(3) THE NUMBER OF NEW OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS BY PLACEMENT TYPE;**

**(4) THE NUMBER OF EXITS FROM THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM BY EXIT TYPE;**

**(5) THE NUMBER OF EXITS TO REUNIFICATION AND REENTRIES WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER EXIT;**

**(6) THE NUMBER OF EXITS TO REUNIFICATION AND REENTRIES WITHIN 24 MONTHS AFTER EXIT;**

~~**(6)**~~ **(7) THE STABILITY OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENT CHANGES;**

~~**(7) HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING THE STABILITY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, MEDICATIONS, AND PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSES;**~~

**(8) THE STABILITY OF SCHOOL PLACEMENTS;**

**(9) THE NUMBER WHO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL;**

**(10) THE NUMBER WHO QUALIFY FOR A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION; AND**

**(11) THE NUMBER WHO RECEIVE TUITION WAIVERS.**

**(C) IN REPORTING THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

**(1) MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION ON CHILDREN AND FOSTER YOUTH IN THE STATE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM;**

**(2) ENSURE THAT NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION IS DISCLOSED; AND**

**(3) DISAGGREGATE THE INFORMATION BY COUNTY, AGE, GENDER, RACE, AND ETHNICITY.**

**(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH EACH REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEB SITE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

#### **Article – Human Services**

5-304.

(a) (4) “Foster youth” means an individual who:

(i) is an adult in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State; or

(ii) is an adult under the age of 25 years; and

(iii) was in out-of-home care under the responsibility of the State on the individual's 18th birthday.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**