

HOUSE BILL 643

O4, O1

5lr1782
CF SB 567

By: **Delegates Zucker, Carozza, Ghrist, Luedtke, Proctor, Sophocleus, ~~and P. Young~~ P. Young, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Family Law
13 Section 5–1301(a), (d), and (i)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Family Law
18 Section 5–1312
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Human Services
2 Section 5–304(a)(4)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2007 Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Family Law**

8 5–1301.

9 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (d) “Child” means any individual under the age of 18 years.

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

13 **5–1312.**

14 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FOSTER YOUTH” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
15 **5–304 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 ~~**(6)**~~ **(7) THE STABILITY OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS,**
4 **INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF PLACEMENT CHANGES;**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **Article – Human Services**

24 5-304.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.