

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1465  
Judiciary

(Delegate M. Washington)

Judicial Proceedings

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Foster Care - Standards for Foster Parents

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This bill requires the Social Services Administration (SSA) of the Department of Human Resources to adopt regulations that provide for the selection of foster parents for a specific child considered for placement who have the capacity to value, respect, appreciate, and educate the child regarding the child's racial, ethnic, religious and cultural heritage, disability, if any, and sexual orientation or gender identity.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** SSA can handle the bill's requirement using existing budgeted resources. Any potential impact on local departments of social services depends on the content of the regulations adopted by SSA.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** It is the policy of the State to protect minor children whose care has been relinquished to others by their parents. SSA is responsible for establishing a program of out-of-home placement for minor children and must adopt rules and regulations to carry out child welfare services and foster care programs. Regulations adopted by SSA must, in part, establish criteria for investigating and approving foster homes and for investigating and determining the suitability of prospective relative or nonrelative guardians.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2016  
md/jc Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2016

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