

**HB1248/913321/1**

BY: Judicial Proceedings Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1248  
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after the first “of” insert “requiring the State Department of Human Services to implement policies”; in the same line, after “services” insert “or the appropriate law enforcement agency”; in line 6, after “manner;” insert “requiring the Department to assess certain studies and methodologies, develop a certain assessment, and complete the assessment by certain dates;”; and after line 12, insert:

“BY adding to

Article - Family Law

Section 5-706(t) and (u)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 1, strike “or”; and in line 3, after “Article” insert “**; OR**

**(IV) A CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSED UNDER TITLE 17 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE**”.

On page 8, strike in their entirety lines 16 through 25, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Family Law**

5-706.

**(T) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO ENSURE THAT IF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FAILS TO SEE A CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIME FRAMES ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION:**

**(1) THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IS DOCUMENTED IN THE CHILD'S CASE FILE; AND**

**(2) A SUPERVISOR AT THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT:**

**(i) IS NOTIFIED OF THE DELAY IN ORDER TO SUPPORT STAFF IN MAKING INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE CHILD; AND**

**(ii) REVIEWS THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DURING THE REVIEW OF THE FINAL INVESTIGATION REPORT.**

**(U) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PREPARE AND ISSUE A QUARTERLY REPORT IDENTIFYING INVESTIGATIONS OR REPORTS THAT ARE NOT COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME FRAMES REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.**

**(2) THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE AN EXPLANATION FOR EACH DELAY, COMPILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES WITH INPUT FROM THE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS.”;**

after line 30, insert:

**“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

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(a) On or before December 1, 2023, the State Department of Human Services shall:

(1) assess studies and methodologies related to analyzing workloads in child welfare systems; and

(2) report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on a plan to develop a child welfare workload assessment in the State based on best practices and the assessments made under item (1) of this subsection.

(b) On or before December 1, 2024, the State Department of Human Services shall:

(1) complete the child welfare workload assessment developed under subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on:

(i) the outcome of the assessment;

(ii) a plan to address understaffing in the State’s child welfare system;

(iii) estimates of the cost to address understaffing in the State’s child welfare system; and

(iv) the benefits to children and families in the State of a properly staffed child welfare system.”;

(Over)

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in line 31, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in line 32, strike “It” and substitute “Section 2 of this Act”.

On page 9, in line 1, after the second comma insert “Section 2 of”.