

HOUSE BILL 1383

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6lr3324

By: **Delegate Guyton**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children in Need of Assistance – Permanency Plan Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions relating to the juvenile court's
4 determination of a permanency plan for a certain child in need of assistance or a
5 guardianship review hearing; and generally relating to children in need of assistance
6 and permanency plans.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 3–816.1(b)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 3–816.1.

16 (b) (1) In a hearing conducted in accordance with § 3–815, § 3–817, § 3–819, or
17 § 3–823 of this subtitle, the court shall make a finding whether the local department made
18 reasonable efforts to prevent placement of the child into the local department's custody.

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 (2) In a review hearing conducted in accordance with § 3–823 of this
2 subtitle or § 5–326 of the Family Law Article, the court shall make a finding whether a
3 local department made reasonable efforts to:

4 (i) Finalize the permanency plan in effect for the child;

5 (ii) Meet the **INDIVIDUALIZED** needs of the child, including the
6 child's [health, education, safety, and preparation]:

7 **1. HEALTH, MEDICAL, AND DENTAL NEEDS INCLUDING**
8 **ENSURING THAT THE NEEDS ARE TIMELY MET;**

9 **2. EDUCATION NEEDS AND EDUCATIONAL PLAN,**
10 **INCLUDING THE TIMELY ENROLLMENT OF THE CHILD IN AN EDUCATIONAL**
11 **PROGRAM AND THE EFFORTS TO INFORM THE CHILD OF POSTSECONDARY**
12 **EDUCATION OR VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS;**

13 **3. SAFETY;**

14 **4. EMOTIONAL STABILITY AND THE TIMELINESS OF**
15 **THERAPEUTIC REFERRALS OR SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CHILD;**

16 **5. PHYSICAL PLACEMENT, INCLUDING THE STABILITY**
17 **AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PLACEMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS OF THE CHILD**
18 **AFTER THE CASE IS TERMINATED;**

19 **6. SOCIALIZATION NEEDS, INCLUDING THE CHILD'S**
20 **ENROLLMENT IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS;**

21 **7. FINANCIAL NEEDS, INCLUDING THE CHILD'S NEED**
22 **FOR FINANCIAL AWARENESS TO ENSURE FUTURE SELF-SUFFICIENCY;**

23 **8. NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE CHILD'S**
24 **BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SOCIAL SECURITY CARD, PASSPORT, DRIVER'S LICENSE, OR**
25 **STATE-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD; AND**

26 **9. PREPARATION** for independence; and

27 (iii) For a child who is at least 18 years of age:

28 1. Before the child is emancipated, enroll the child in health
29 insurance that will continue after the child is emancipated;

30 2. Before the child is emancipated, screen the child for
31 eligibility for public benefits and assist the child with applications for public benefits;

1 3. Work with appropriate individuals to establish a plan for
2 stable housing that is reasonably expected to remain available to the child for at least 12
3 months after the date of emancipation; and

4 4. Work with appropriate individuals to engage the child in
5 education, training, or employment activities that will prepare the child to have
6 appropriate and sufficient income to live independently after emancipation.

7 (3) In a hearing conducted in accordance with § 3–815, § 3–817, or § 3–819
8 of this subtitle, before determining whether a child with a developmental disability or a
9 mental illness is a child in need of assistance, the court shall make a finding whether the
10 local department made reasonable efforts to prevent placement of the child into the local
11 department’s custody by determining whether the local department could have placed the
12 child in accordance with a voluntary placement agreement under § 5–525(b)(1)(i) or (iii) of
13 the Family Law Article.

14 (4) The court shall require a local department to provide evidence of its
15 efforts before the court makes a finding required under this subsection.

16 (5) The court’s finding under this subsection shall assess the efforts made
17 since the last adjudication of reasonable efforts and may not rely on findings from prior
18 hearings.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.