

MICHELE GUYTON
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Baltimore County

—
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 2, 2026

Favorable – HB 1383
Children in Need of Assistance – Permanency Plan Requirements

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I respectfully ask for your consideration of HB 1383, Children in Need of Assistance, Permanency Plan Requirements. Children in foster care are not all the same, and their futures should not be shaped by a one size fits all system. HB 1383 helps ensure that permanency planning focuses on the unique needs of every individual child. Review hearings would be required to evaluate determinants of success such as health, education, safety, emotional support, and stability so that outcomes, not just timelines, define success. HB 1383 helps ensure that children in care are seen as individuals with unique needs, not just cases moving through a system as quickly as possible.

This bill also recognizes that foster youth in transition need real preparation for life beyond state care. It requires attention to the availability of identification documents, access to health care, stable housing plans, and support for education, training, or employment. Without these essentials, too many young people face unnecessary barriers the moment they exit care. These are the basic building blocks that help young people succeed as adults. We owe it to them to ensure they are not set up to struggle but equipped to thrive. By strengthening accountability and focusing on each child's wellbeing and future independence, HB 1383 helps ensure that Maryland's foster care system is not just managing placements, but truly supporting young people as they grow into adulthood.

Because every child in Maryland's care deserves dignity, stability, and a real opportunity for a successful future, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1383.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee