

AN ACT concerning

Child Welfare Services - Foster Care

FOR the purpose of establishing child welfare services to prevent the necessity of foster care placement, where possible, reunite families and develop permanent plans for children in foster care; establishing a program of foster care in accordance with certain priorities; requiring the Social Services Administration to establish goals by regulation for reducing the percentage of children who remain in foster care for more than 2 years; and authorizing the Social Services Administration to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

BY adding to

Article 88A - Social Services Administration
Section 61, to be under the new subtitle "Child Welfare Services - Foster Care Program"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1981 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland read(s) as follows:

Article 88A - Social Services Administration

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES - FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

61.

(A) THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SHALL, TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED IN THE BUDGET, PROVIDE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND PARENTS OR GUARDIANS IN ORDER TO:

(1) ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE NECESSITY OF PLACING CHILDREN OUT OF THE HOME;

(2) REUNIFY THE FAMILY IF THE CHILD HAS BEEN PLACED IN FOSTER CARE; OR

(3) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN ALTERNATIVE PERMANENT PLAN FOR THE CHILD IF THE CHILD HAS BEEN PLACED IN FOSTER CARE AND CANNOT RETURN HOME.

(B) (1) THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF FOSTER CARE FOR CHILDREN WHO: