

administrators, and State's attorneys, is itself a major, complex program involving the enforcement of state and federal child support laws including location of absent parents, establishing paternity and support awards through the courts, and enforcement and collection of existing court ordered child support; and

WHEREAS, Revenues collected by the child support enforcement program total approximately \$57 million per year, including \$18 million on behalf of public assistance families used to offset the cost of the AFDC program, and \$39 million collected for nonpublic assistance families which help those families to avoid the need for public assistance; and

WHEREAS, Many other states have separated the administration of the child support enforcement program from administration of income maintenance programs in order to establish a greater level of program attention and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Despite the improved record of child support collections in recent years, the Governor and the General Assembly now deem it desirable to establish the Child Support Enforcement Administration as a separate administration within the Department of Human Resources in order to provide a high level of management and leadership devoted solely to maximizing collections on behalf of families and revenues on behalf of the State; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDERED BY THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 24, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, That:

Article 16 - Chancery

66B.

(b) A bill or petition may not be filed or received by the clerk of the court if the consent or authorization of the State's attorney for the county or city where the same is to be filed is not attached unless:

(2) The bill or petition is filed on behalf of the [bureau of support enforcement of the Social Services Administration] CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

66C.

(a) If the complainant or petitioner is the [bureau of support enforcement of the Social Services Administration] CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES or a person whom the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION approves for child support services, the complainant or petitioner shall be represented as provided in Article 88A, § 59(c). When, in accordance with that subsection, the Attorney General or legal