

requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to submit a certain report on the outcome measurement system on or before a certain date; requiring the outcome measurement system indicators to be based on certain information; requiring the Child and Family Services Advisory Board in the Department of Human Resources to review, assess, and provide guidance on the outcome-based system of accountability; requiring the Department of Human Resources to pursue national accreditation for each local department of social services; requiring the Department of Human Resources to study the recruitment, selection, and retention of the child welfare workforce and submit a report to certain entities; requiring the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Human Resources, on or before a certain date, to report on an assessment of certain accounting structures and workload measures; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources and the University of Maryland School of Social Work, on or before a certain date, to enter into a memorandum of understanding to implement a local department self-assessment process and to collect and maintain certain data; requiring the University of Maryland School of Social Work to report on the measurement of performance and the collection of certain data; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to enter into a contract with the Child Welfare League of America for certain activities related to caseload ratios on or before a certain date; providing for a delayed effective date for certain provisions of this Act; ~~providing for the effective dates of this Act~~; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to child welfare accountability.

BY adding to

Article – Family Law

Section 5–1301 through 5–1311, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13. Child Welfare Accountability”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Each year the Maryland child welfare system touches the lives of 90,000 children and their families; and

WHEREAS, When abused and neglected children do not receive necessary, timely, and appropriate services and interventions, the human and social costs are enormous; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate resources in the child welfare system prevent abused and neglected children and their families from receiving high quality services and require agencies to focus on meeting only the most pressing needs and to aim only for compliance with State and federal minimum standards; and

WHEREAS, In order for abused and neglected children and their families to receive high quality services, the child welfare system must aim to create a culture of excellence and to develop child welfare best practices that provide cutting edge services to children and families; and