

(2) the outcome measurement system indicators, as described in § 5-1303 through § 5-1306 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall be based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Welfare Accountability, the Department of Human Resources' Program Improvement Plan, and national best practices; and

(3) the Child and Family Services Advisory Board in the Department of Human Resources shall review, assess, and provide guidance on the outcome-based system of accountability, as described in § 5-1302 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Human Resources shall pursue national accreditation for each local department of social services.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2007, the Department of Human Resources shall:

(1) conduct a comprehensive study of the recruitment, selection, and retention of the child welfare workforce for the purpose of developing strategies to lower the turnover rate and increase the qualifications of the workforce; and

(2) in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, report to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee on the findings and recommendations of the Department.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2006, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Human Resources shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee on an assessment of the accounting structure and workload measures used by the Social Services Administration and the local departments of social services to determine the changes that are necessary to adopt the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Welfare Accountability relating to:

- (1) flexible budgeting to meet the needs of families;
- (2) cost accounting for the child welfare system; and
- (3) measuring performance of the child welfare system.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2007, the Secretary of Human Resources and the University of Maryland School of Social Work shall enter into a memorandum of understanding setting forth the responsibilities of each entity to implement a local department self-assessment process to monitor the quality of casework services and to collect and maintain child welfare services data.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2007, the Secretary of Human Resources shall consult with the Child Welfare League