

~~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

WHEREAS, In order to create a culture of excellence and to develop child welfare best practices in the child welfare system, the Governor and the General Assembly must make a long-term commitment to enhanced and stable funding and support for abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, The Governor’s Office for Children and the Children’s Cabinet will work together to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, A culture of excellence in the child welfare system cannot be accomplished without a long-term commitment to the communities within the State that contribute the highest number of children to out-of-home care; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: