

(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 of America to develop a methodology to calculate caseload ratios in child welfare services for the State, and enter into a contract to have the Child Welfare League of America annually review these calculations as provided in § 5-1310 of the Family Law Article as enacted by this Act.

SECTION 7. ~~8.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2007.

SECTION 8. ~~9.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 7 ~~8~~ of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2006. ~~Section 6 Sections 6 and 7~~ of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 6 years and, at the end of June 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, ~~Section 6 Sections 6 and 7~~ of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved May 16, 2006.