

(C) THE COUNCIL MAY EMPLOY A STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

5-7A-05.

(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL OPERATE WITH THREE STANDING COMMITTEES.

(B) THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT. IT SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

(C) THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE STATE'S RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

(D) THE FEDERAL CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT COMMITTEE IS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT, PUBLIC LAW 100-294. IT SHALL REVIEW AND EVALUATE STATE INVESTIGATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND JUDICIAL HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES, AND MAKE POLICY AND TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE SYSTEM RESPONSE AND INTERVENTION. THE COMMITTEE SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE JUDICIARY WITH CRIMINAL AND CIVIL TRIAL COURT DOCKET EXPERIENCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE MARYLAND PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, STATE'S ATTORNEYS, THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM, HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS THAT SERVE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, PARENT GROUPS, AND ATTORNEYS WHO REPRESENT CHILDREN.

(E) IN ADDITION TO THE THREE STANDING COMMITTEES, THE COUNCIL MAY ESTABLISH OTHER AD HOC COMMITTEES AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

5-7A-06.

(A) IN ADDITION TO ANY DUTIES SET FORTH ELSEWHERE, THE COUNCIL SHALL, BY EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND SPECIFIC CASES THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION, EVALUATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES ARE EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGING THEIR CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH:

- (1) THE STATE PLAN UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 5106A(B);
- (2) THE CHILD PROTECTION STANDARDS SET FORTH IN 42 U.S.C. § 5106A(B); AND
- (3) ANY OTHER CRITERIA THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, INCLUDING: