

CHAPTER 358

(Senate Bill 480)

AN ACT concerning

Foster Care - Child Support Obligations

FOR the purpose of requiring the Social Services Administration to adopt regulations that ~~mandate require~~ authorize background checks for child support arrearages for certain ~~foster parents applicants for foster home approval~~ who are also biological or adoptive parents; ~~requiring the Social Services Administration to adopt regulations that mandate that certain foster parents be given a certain time period to pay delinquent child support obligations before any action is taken with regard to the placement or removal of foster children requiring the regulations to require that an applicant whose child support payments are in arrears be given a certain period of time to bring the obligation current before a decision is made on the application; requiring the regulations to require that if a foster parent is in arrears in child support payments, no additional children will be placed in the individual's home until the obligation is brought current requiring the Administration to adopt regulations that authorize the Administration to consider any child support arrearage of an applicant in determining whether to approve or disapprove the application;~~ and generally relating to the placement of foster children.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law

Section ~~5-525(i)~~ 5-532

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume)

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

Article - Family Law~~5-525.~~(i) ~~The Administration shall adopt regulations that:~~

(1) ~~for the 12 month period beginning on October 1, 1983, and for each subsequent 12 month period, establish specific goals as to the maximum number of children who will remain in foster care for more than 2 years;~~

(2) ~~prohibit a local department from seeking the custody or guardianship of a child for placement in foster care solely because the child's parent or guardian lacks shelter; [and]~~

(3) ~~require the local department to make appropriate referrals to emergency shelter and other services for families with children who lack shelter; AND~~