

BY adding to

Article – Family Law

Section 10–119.1 and 10–119.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

10–119.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “CONCILIATION CONFERENCE” MEANS A CONFERENCE CONDUCTED AT A SITE DESIGNATED BY THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PARTIES TO RESOLVE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH AN ACTION TO MODIFY OR ENFORCE A DUTY OF SUPPORT PRIOR TO GOING TO A COURT PROCEEDING.

(B) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING § 13–405 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE, THERE IS A CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PRIVATIZATION PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL OPERATE IN BALTIMORE CITY AND QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES TO PRIVATIZE ALL ASPECTS OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING:

- (1) LOCATING ABSENT PARENTS;
- (2) ESTABLISHING PATERNITIES;
- (3) ESTABLISHING SUPPORT ORDERS;
- (4) COLLECTING AND DISBURSING SUPPORT PAYMENTS;
- (5) REVIEWING AND MODIFYING CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS; AND

(6) EXCEPT FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 10–115 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, ENFORCING SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS.

(D) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL:

- (1) ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:

(I) REQUIRE THE TRANSFER OF ALL ASPECTS OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT TO ONE OR MORE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS BY JULY 1, 2003;