

FOR the purpose of establishing the Child Support Enforcement Privatization Pilot Program; requiring the Secretary of Human Resources to provide a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; establishing certain rights for certain employees; authorizing the Pilot Program to conduct a conciliation conference; requiring the Secretary to establish certain demonstration sites according to a certain schedule; requiring the Secretary to appoint a director of child support services in a demonstration site; authorizing the Secretary to sever certain contracts under certain circumstances; classifying certain employment positions in a demonstration site; requiring the Secretary to establish a certain performance incentive program; authorizing a demonstration site to conduct a conciliation conference; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations; providing for the term of a certain privatization contract between the Department of Human Resources and a private contractor; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to child support enforcement.

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;