

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

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**CHAPTER 395**

**(House Bill 959)**

AN ACT concerning

**Department of Human Resources and Department of Juvenile Justice -  
Links Between Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile Justice to collaborate to determine certain information; requiring the departments to study the link between the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system as it is experienced in the State; requiring the departments to develop a certain plan; requiring the departments to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile Justice and the link between child welfare and juvenile justice.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Department of Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall collaborate to identify the number of children who were in the custody of a local department of social services and were referred to the courts or the Department of Juvenile Justice for delinquent acts in the time period from July 1, 1998 through July 1, 2002.

(b) The Department of Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall:

(1) study the link between the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system as it operates in the State; and

(2) develop a plan to address the link between the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system, including:

- (i) increasing communication between the two systems;
- (ii) coordinating efforts; and
- (iii) jointly developing initiatives.

(c) The Department of Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall jointly report to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2002, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on: