

10-119.1.

(a) In this section, "conciliation conference" means a conference conducted at a site designated by the ~~Pilot~~ 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~~ Pilot Program within the Department.

(2) The ~~Pilot~~ Pilot Program shall operate in Baltimore City and Queen Anne's County.

(c) The purpose of the ~~Pilot~~ 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 the Family Law Article 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 November 1, 1996;
 - (ii) provide for the reimbursement of any private contractor;
 - (iii) prohibit the cost of transferring child support enforcement to private contractors as defined in item (ii) of this paragraph from exceeding the fiscal year 1995 administrative cost per child support dollar collected by the Child Support Enforcement Administration in the ~~Pilot~~ Pilot Program areas;
 - (iv) require any private contractor to offer employment upon terms deemed by the Secretary to be fair and equitable to any former State employees working for an existing contractor who are affected by the transfer of child support enforcement responsibilities under this section and to retain any employees who accept the offer:

1. for the duration of the ~~Pilot~~ Pilot Program unless there is cause for dismissal; and