

(1) DISMISS THE ALLEGED SLAPP SUIT, IN WHICH CASE THE COURT SHALL HOLD A HEARING ON THE MOTION TO DISMISS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE; OR

(2) STAY ALL COURT PROCEEDINGS UNTIL THE MATTER ABOUT WHICH THE DEFENDANT COMMUNICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT BODY OR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IS RESOLVED.

(E) THIS SECTION:

(1) IS APPLICABLE TO SLAPP SUITS NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW OR RULE; AND

(2) DOES NOT DIMINISH ANY EQUITABLE OR LEGAL RIGHT OR REMEDY OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO A DEFENDANT IN A SLAPP SUIT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2004.

Approved May 11, 2004.

CHAPTER 281

(Senate Bill 477)

AN ACT concerning

~~Family Law — Adoption Subsidies — Medically Fragile Child~~
Medically Fragile Children — Study

FOR the purpose of ~~altering the calculation of an adoption subsidy for a medically fragile child; requiring the subsidy to be reviewed and adjusted annually and continued after a certain age until services are no longer required; requiring the~~ Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities, with the assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to study the placement of medically fragile children in Maryland; specifying the contents of the study; requiring a certain report by a certain date; and generally relating to adoption subsidies for the placement of medically fragile children.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article — Family Law~~

~~Section 5-410~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)~~