

transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but shall remain in the Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund to be used for the purposes specified in this section.

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 closure, consolidation, or downsizing of any Mental Hygiene Administration facility before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1, 2004, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the University of Maryland Medical System, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, shall report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article on any developments related to the proposed transfer of the Walter P. Carter Center to the University of Maryland Medical System.

SECTION 3. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved May 11, 2004.

CHAPTER 304

(Senate Bill 711)

AN ACT concerning

Child Welfare Services - Children in Out-of-Home Placement

FOR the purpose of ~~declaring the intent of the General Assembly that certain funds be available for certain services when a parent relinquishes care of the parent's minor child to others; prohibiting the Department of Human Resources from placing children committed to the Department in group homes or residential facilities that accept children from other State agencies after a certain date; requiring the Department to consider certain criteria before issuing certain licenses; requiring local departments of social services to consider certain criteria in developing a permanency plan for a child in an out-of-home placement; altering certain goals of a local board of review for minor children in out-of-home placement; altering certain recommendations that may be made by a local board; requiring the Social Services Administration to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families, in consultation with the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Juvenile Services, to conduct a certain study, develop a certain plan, and make a certain report on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; making the provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to child welfare services and children in out-of-home placement.~~