BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

> Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

> Section 3–823

> Annotated Code of Maryland

> (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3–823.

(a)   In this section, "out–of–home placement" has the meaning stated in § 5–501 of the Family Law Article.

(b)   (1)   The court shall hold a permanency planning hearing to determine the permanency plan for a child:

(i)   No later than 11 months after a child committed under [§ 3–819.1(b)] § 3–819 of this subtitle or continued in a voluntary placement under § 3–819.1(b) of this subtitle enters an out–of–home placement; or

(ii)   Within 30 days after the court finds that reasonable efforts to reunify a child with the child's parent or guardian are not required based on a finding that a circumstance enumerated in § 3–812 of this subtitle has occurred.

(2)   For purposes of this section, a child shall be considered to have entered an out–of–home placement 30 days after the child is placed into an out–of–home placement.

(3)   If all parties agree, a permanency planning hearing may be held on the same day as the reasonable efforts hearing.

(c)   (1)   On the written request of a party or on its own motion, the court may schedule a hearing at any earlier time to determine a permanency plan or to review the implementation of a permanency plan for any child committed under § 3–819 of this subtitle.

(2)   A written request for review shall state the reason for the request and each issue to be raised.

(d)   At least 10 days before the permanency planning hearing, the local department shall provide all parties and the court with a copy of the local department's permanency plan for the child.

(e)   At a permanency planning hearing, the court shall:

(1)   Determine the child's permanency plan, which may be:

(i)   Reunification with the parent or guardian;

(ii)   Placement with a relative for: