

certain factors and take certain actions at a certain review hearing; requiring a local department of social services to give *certain* notice of certain hearings to certain persons *under certain circumstances*; altering certain definitions; defining certain terms; requiring the State to comply with certain provisions of this Act for a certain number of children by a certain date; providing for the application of a certain provision of this Act; and generally relating to certain children in out-of-home placements.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law

Section 5-303, 5-313, ~~5-322(b)~~ ~~5-322~~, 5-408, 5-501, 5-525, and 5-525.1; and 5-539, 5-540, 5-541, 5-544, 5-545, 5-546, and 5-547, to be under the amended part "Part IV. Out-of-Home Placement Review Boards"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article - Family Law~~

~~Section 5-322(a)~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1991 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)~~

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-812.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3-826.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The goal of Maryland's child welfare system is safety and permanency for children; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State's child welfare system is committed to preserve families when possible and to reunify children with parents when safe to do so; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State recognizes that in some circumstances it is not possible or in the best interest of the child to return the child to the child's parents; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State's child welfare system is committed to making reasonable efforts to ensure prompt permanency for children; now, therefore,~~