

CHAPTER 444

(House Bill 968)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law - ~~Flex Funds - Adopted Children~~ Post Adoption Support Services Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring that a child who is eligible for certain funds before adoption remains eligible after adoption; defining a certain term; and generally relating to funding for adopted children~~ establishing the Post Adoption Support Services Pilot Program; providing for the purpose of the Program; identifying children eligible for post adoption support services; requiring the local Department of Social Services to conduct a certain assessment of the needs of the adopted child and adoptive family; requiring the local Department of Social Services to create a post adoption support service plan; requiring the submission of a post adoption support service plan by a local Department of Social Services to the Department of Human Resources; requiring a local Department of Social Services or a certain vendor to provide certain services; providing for funding for the Program; providing for Program funds; requiring the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources to submit a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to post adoption support services.

~~BY adding to~~
~~Article - Family Law~~
~~Section 5-413~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2006 Replacement Volume)~~

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

~~Article - Family Law~~

~~5-413.~~

~~(A) IN THIS SECTION, "FLEX FUNDS" MEANS THOSE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS AVAILABLE TO A LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE GOODS AND~~

~~SERVICES TO SUPPORT A FAMILY'S SERVICE PLAN WHEN NO OTHER RESOURCE IS AVAILABLE.~~

~~(B) A CHILD WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FLEX FUNDS BEFORE ADOPTION SHALL REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR FLEX FUNDS AFTER ADOPTION.~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) (1) In this Act the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Post adoption support services” means medical treatment, mental health services, parenting classes, or any other direct services provided by the Department of Human Resources after a child is adopted that:

(i) aid an adopted child or adoptive family in which an adopted child is in crisis; and

(ii) assist in preventing the child from being returned to the care and supervision of the Department of Human Resources.

(3) “Program” means the Post Adoption Support Services Pilot Program.

(b) There is a Post Adoption Support Services Pilot Program.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to:

(1) provide post adoption support services to adopted children and their adoptive families; and

(2) provide additional State funds for adopted children.

(d) An adopted child or adoptive family shall be eligible for post adoption support services if the adoption was ordered under § 5-338 of the Family Law Article.

(e) At the request of an adoptive parent for post adoption support services from the local Department of Social Services, the local Department of Social Services shall conduct a clinical assessment of the needs of the adopted child and adoptive family.

(f) After a determination by the local Department of Social Services that the adopted child or adoptive family is in need of post adoption support services, the local Department of Social Services shall submit a proposed post adoption support service plan to the Department of Human Resources for approval and funding.

(g) On approval and the release of funds by the Department of Human Resources, the local Department of Social Services or a vendor designated by the local Department of Social Services shall provide the post adoption support services to the adopted child or adoptive family.

(h) (1) Funding for the Program shall be provided from existing resources of the Department of Human Resources.

(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that not more than \$250,000 from any fund source be expended per fiscal year.

(i) On or before December 1, 2009, the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on:

(1) the number of adopted children and adoptive families served by the Program;

(2) the number of adopted children and adoptive families that made applications for post adoption support services under the Program;

(3) the types of post adoption support services provided to adopted children and adoptive families by the Program; and

(4) the effectiveness of the post adoption support services provided under this Program.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2007~~ July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.