

# HOUSE BILL 1465

D4, O4

6lr2866

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By: **Delegate M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

Reassigned: Judiciary, February 18, 2016

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2016

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foster Care – Standards for Foster Parents**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Social Services Administration of the Department of  
4 Human Resources to adopt regulations that ~~require local departments of social~~  
5 ~~services to ensure that potential~~ provide for the selection of foster parents for a  
6 specific child considered for placement that have the capacity to value, respect,  
7 appreciate, and educate ~~a~~ the child regarding the child's racial, ethnic, religious, and  
8 cultural heritage, disability, if any, and sexual orientation or gender identity; and  
9 generally relating to children in out-of-home care.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Family Law  
12 Section 5–525(j)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Family Law**

18 5–525.

19 (j) The Administration shall adopt regulations that:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (1) establish goals and specify permanency planning procedures that:

2 (i) maximize the prospect for reducing length of stay in out-of-home  
3 placement in the best interests of children; and

4 (ii) implement the intent of this section;

5 (2) prohibit a local department from seeking the custody or guardianship  
6 of a child for placement in foster care solely because the child's parent or guardian lacks  
7 shelter or has a disability or solely because the child's parents are financially unable to  
8 provide treatment or care for a child with a developmental disability or mental illness;

9 (3) specify the compelling reasons for placing a child in a local jurisdiction  
10 other than the local jurisdiction where the child's parent or guardian resides, under  
11 subsection (f)(3)(ii) of this section;

12 (4) require the local department to make appropriate referrals to  
13 emergency shelter and other services for families with children who lack shelter;

14 (5) establish criteria for investigating and approving foster homes,  
15 including requirements for window coverings in accordance with § 5-505 of this subtitle;

16 (6) for cases in which the permanency plan recommended by the local  
17 department or under consideration by the court includes appointment of a guardian and  
18 rescission of the local department's custody or guardianship of a child:

19 (i) establish criteria for investigating and determining the  
20 suitability of prospective relative or nonrelative guardians; and

21 (ii) require the filing of a report with the court as provided in §  
22 3-819.2 of the Courts Article; [and]

23 (7) ensure that all children in foster care who are at least 18 years of age  
24 have a birth certificate, a Social Security card, health insurance information, medical  
25 records, and a driver's license or State-issued identification card at emancipation; AND

26 (8) ~~REQUIRE LOCAL DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT POTENTIAL~~  
27 PROVIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF FOSTER PARENTS FOR A SPECIFIC CHILD  
28 CONSIDERED FOR PLACEMENT THAT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO VALUE, RESPECT,  
29 APPRECIATE, AND EDUCATE A THE CHILD REGARDING THE CHILD'S RACIAL,  
30 ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, DISABILITY, IF ANY, AND SEXUAL  
31 ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
33 October 1, 2016.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.