

HOUSE BILL 49

P1

8lr1042

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Wilson**

Requested: November 1, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Months – Foster Care Month**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as Foster
4 Care Month; requiring the proclamation to urge residents of Maryland to volunteer
5 their talents and energies on behalf of certain individuals; and generally relating to
6 Foster Care Month.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–504 through 7–506, respectively

10 to be Section 7–505 through 7–507, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–504

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, National Foster Care Month originated in 1988 to recognize foster
20 parents for opening their homes to children in need; and

21 WHEREAS, The family, a primary source of love, identity, self–esteem, and support,
22 is the very foundation of our communities and our State; and

23 WHEREAS, In Maryland, there are approximately 4,500 children and youth in foster
24 care who are served by resource families every year; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Children and youth in foster care are provided a safe, secure, and stable
2 home and a compassionate and nurturing foster family; and

3 WHEREAS, Foster families open their homes and hearts to children whose families
4 are in crisis; and

5 WHEREAS, Foster families play a vital role in helping children and families heal
6 from traumatic experiences, reconnect with parents, and prepare youth for successful
7 adulthood; and

8 WHEREAS, Dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in
9 an ongoing need for more foster families; and

10 WHEREAS, Numerous individuals and public and private organizations are working
11 to increase awareness of the needs of children in or leaving foster care and of the enduring
12 valuable contribution of foster parents; now, therefore,

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That Section(s) 7–504 through 7–506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the
15 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–505 through 7–507,
16 respectively.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
18 as follows:

19 **Article – General Provisions**

20 **7–504.**

21 **(A) IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO DEVOTE THEIR LIVES TO IMPROVING**
22 **THE LIVES OF FOSTER CHILDREN, THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM**
23 **MAY AS FOSTER CARE MONTH.**

24 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE ALL RESIDENTS OF MARYLAND TO**
25 **VOLUNTEER THEIR TALENTS AND ENERGIES ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER**
26 **CARE, FOSTER PARENTS, AND CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS.**

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2018.