

# HOUSE BILL 772

D4, O4  
HB 575/15 – JUD

6lr2246  
CF SB 262

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By: **Delegates Moon, Valentino–Smith, Afzali, Anderson, Bromwell, Carter, Glass, Gutierrez, Hettleman, Lierman, Luedtke, Oaks, Sanchez, M. Washington, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Protecting the Resources of Children in State Custody**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources, when applying for  
4 certain benefits for a child in the Department’s custody, to identify a representative  
5 payee or fiduciary in consultation with the child’s attorney; establishing certain  
6 duties of the Department when the Department serves as the representative payee  
7 or fiduciary for a child receiving certain benefits; requiring the Department to  
8 provide certain notice to the child through the child’s attorney of certain actions  
9 taken with respect to certain benefits for the child; providing for the application and  
10 construction of this Act; and generally relating to children in State custody.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Family Law

13 Section 5–527.1

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Family Law**

19 **5–527.1.**

20 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO CHILDREN COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF**  
21 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) WHEN APPLYING FOR BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION FOR A CHILD IN**  
2 **THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTODY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN COOPERATION WITH**  
3 **THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY, IDENTIFY A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR FIDUCIARY IN**  
4 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF 20 C.F.R. §§ 404.2021 AND 416.621.**

5           **(C) CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT SERVES AS**  
6 **THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR IN ANY OTHER FIDUCIARY CAPACITY FOR A CHILD**  
7 **RECEIVING VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFITS, SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY**  
8 **INCOME, OR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

9           **(1) USE OR CONSERVE THE BENEFITS IN THE CHILD'S BEST INTEREST,**  
10 **INCLUDING USING THE BENEFITS FOR SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS NOT**  
11 **OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR CONSERVING THE BENEFITS FOR**  
12 **THE CHILD'S REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE NEEDS;**

13           **(2) ENSURE THAT WHEN THE CHILD ATTAINS THE AGE OF 17 YEARS**  
14 **AND UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT NO LONGER SERVES AS THE REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE**  
15 **OR FIDUCIARY, A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF THE CHILD'S BENEFITS ARE NOT USED**  
16 **TO REIMBURSE THE STATE FOR THE COSTS OF CARE FOR THE CHILD AND ARE USED**  
17 **OR CONSERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPHS (3) AND (4) OF THIS**  
18 **SUBSECTION, AS FOLLOWS:**

19                   **(I) AT AGE 17, AT LEAST 40%; AND**

20                   **(II) FROM AGE 18 TO AGE 21, 100%;**

21           **(3) FOR THE CHILD'S BENEFITS OR RESOURCES THAT ARE BELOW OR**  
22 **NOT SUBJECT TO ANY FEDERAL ASSET OR RESOURCE LIMIT, EXERCISE DISCRETION**  
23 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD TO**  
24 **CONSERVE THE FUNDS OR USE THE FUNDS FOR SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS NOT**  
25 **OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING CHOOSING ONE OR MORE**  
26 **OF THE OPTIONS LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**

27           **(4) APPROPRIATELY MONITOR ANY FEDERAL ASSET OR RESOURCE**  
28 **LIMITS FOR THE BENEFITS AND ENSURE THAT THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS ARE**  
29 **SERVED BY USING OR CONSERVING THE BENEFITS IN A WAY THAT AVOIDS**  
30 **VIOLATING ANY FEDERAL ASSET OR RESOURCE LIMITS THAT WOULD AFFECT THE**  
31 **CHILD'S ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS, INCLUDING:**

32                   **(I) APPLYING TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO**  
33 **ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR ACHIEVING SELF-SUPPORT (PASS) ACCOUNT FOR THE**  
34 **CHILD UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AND DETERMINING WHETHER IT IS IN**  
35 **THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD TO CONSERVE ALL OR PART OF THE BENEFITS**  
36 **IN THE PASS ACCOUNT;**

1           (II) ESTABLISHING A 529A PLAN FOR THE CHILD AND  
2 CONSERVING THE CHILD'S BENEFITS IN THAT ACCOUNT IN A MANNER THAT  
3 APPROPRIATELY AVOIDS ANY FEDERAL ASSET OR RESOURCE LIMITS;

4           (III) ESTABLISHING AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT  
5 FOR THE CHILD AND CONSERVING THE CHILD'S BENEFITS IN THAT ACCOUNT IN A  
6 MANNER THAT APPROPRIATELY AVOIDS ANY FEDERAL ASSET OR RESOURCE LIMITS;

7           (IV) ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST FOR THE CHILD  
8 AND CONSERVING THE CHILD'S BENEFITS IN THE TRUST IN A MANNER THAT IS  
9 CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS AND  
10 THAT APPROPRIATELY AVOIDS ANY FEDERAL ASSET OR RESOURCE LIMITS;

11           (V) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT USING THE  
12 BENEFITS FOR SERVICES FOR CURRENT SPECIAL NEEDS NOT ALREADY PROVIDED  
13 BY THE DEPARTMENT, USING THE BENEFITS FOR THOSE SERVICES;

14           (VI) IF FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES CERTAIN BACK PAYMENTS OF  
15 BENEFITS TO BE PLACED IN A DEDICATED ACCOUNT, COMPLYING WITH THE  
16 REQUIREMENTS FOR DEDICATED ACCOUNTS UNDER 20 C.F.R. § 416.640(E); AND

17           (VII) APPLYING ANY OTHER EXCLUSIONS FROM FEDERAL ASSET  
18 OR RESOURCE LIMITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL LAW AND USING OR CONSERVING  
19 THE CHILD'S BENEFITS IN A MANNER THAT APPROPRIATELY AVOIDS ANY FEDERAL  
20 ASSET OR RESOURCE LIMITS;

21           (5) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL ACCOUNTING TO THE CHILD AND THE  
22 CHILD'S ATTORNEY OF HOW THE CHILD'S RESOURCES, INCLUDING VETERANS  
23 ADMINISTRATION BENEFITS, SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, AND SOCIAL  
24 SECURITY BENEFITS, HAVE BEEN USED OR CONSERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
25 SECTION; AND

26           (6) PROVIDE THE CHILD WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING WHEN  
27 THE CHILD HAS ATTAINED THE AGE OF 14 YEARS.

28           (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE CHILD  
29 THROUGH THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY OF:

30           (I) ANY APPLICATION FOR VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
31 BENEFITS, SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, OR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS  
32 MADE ON THE CHILD'S BEHALF OR ANY APPLICATION TO BECOME REPRESENTATIVE  
33 PAYEE FOR THOSE BENEFITS ON THE CHILD'S BEHALF;

1                   **(II) ANY DECISIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE**  
2 **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OR THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**  
3 **REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS**  
4 **PARAGRAPH; AND**

5                   **(III) ANY APPEAL OR OTHER ACTION REQUESTED BY THE**  
6 **DEPARTMENT REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS DESCRIBED UNDER**  
7 **ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

8                   **(2) WHEN THE DEPARTMENT SERVES AS THE REPRESENTATIVE**  
9 **PAYEE OR OTHERWISE RECEIVES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFITS,**  
10 **SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME, OR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ON THE**  
11 **CHILD'S BEHALF, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE CHILD**  
12 **THROUGH THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY OF THE FOLLOWING BEFORE EACH JUVENILE**  
13 **COURT HEARING REGARDING THE CHILD:**

14                   **(I) THE DATES AND THE AMOUNT OF BENEFIT FUNDS RECEIVED**  
15 **ON THE CHILD'S BEHALF SINCE ANY PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO THE CHILD'S**  
16 **ATTORNEY; AND**

17                   **(II) INFORMATION REGARDING ALL THE CHILD'S ASSETS AND**  
18 **RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE CHILD'S BENEFITS, INSURANCE, CASH ASSETS, TRUST**  
19 **ACCOUNTS, EARNINGS, AND OTHER RESOURCES.**

20                   **(E) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT ANY ADDITIONAL**  
21 **NOTICE REQUIRED BY A STATE COURT.**

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