

~~WHEREAS, The Commission found that the current court structure in Maryland cannot respond quickly in the area of adoptions, courts are not able to comply with the required 180 day timeframe for a decision on termination of parental rights, and termination of parental rights is not viewed as a priority by many judges; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Commission found that continuity in cases is lacking when child welfare proceedings for one child are held in two different courts; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Commission found that changing the court review interval to 12 months, with extensions of temporary custody only in special circumstances, would reduce the delays in achieving a permanent placement for a child; now, therefore~~

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-804.

(a) The court has exclusive original jurisdiction over:

(1) [a] A child alleged to be delinquent, in need of supervision, in need of assistance or who has received a citation for a violation; AND

(2) EXCEPT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, WITH RESPECT TO ANY CHILD WHO IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE JUVENILE COURT AND PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN ADJUDICATED A CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, ALL TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS PROCEEDINGS AND RELATED ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS.

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3-826.1.

(A) NO LATER THAN 10 MONTHS AFTER DISPOSITION MADE IN THE CASE OF A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, THE COURT SHALL HOLD A HEARING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERMANENCY PLAN FOR EACH CHILD COMMITTED UNDER § 3-820(C)(1)(II) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) UPON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF ANY PARTY OR ON ITS OWN MOTION, THE COURT MAY SCHEDULE A HEARING AT ANY EARLIER TIME TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERMANENCY PLAN FOR ANY CHILD COMMITTED PURSUANT TO § 3-820 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) THE WRITTEN REQUEST FOR REVIEW SHALL STATE THE REASON FOR THE REQUEST AND ANY ISSUES TO BE RAISED.

(C) AT THE REVIEW HEARING FOR A CHILD IN PLACEMENT, THE COURT SHALL:

(1) DETERMINE THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE CHILD, INCLUDING WHETHER THE CHILD SHOULD BE: