

# HOUSE BILL 1305

O4, F1, F2

6lr3355

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By: **Delegates Kaiser, Kaufman, Palakovich Carr, Simmons, Wilson, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Child Welfare System – Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to include certain  
4 information in a certain report; requiring the State Department of Education, in  
5 cooperation with the Department of Human Services, to develop and submit a certain  
6 report to the General Assembly on improving outcomes for students in the State child  
7 welfare system; and generally relating to children and foster youth in the State child  
8 welfare system.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Family Law  
11 Section 5–1312(c) and (d)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Family Law**

17 5–1312.

18 (c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, on or before December 1 each year,  
19 the State Department of Education shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance  
20 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, and to the Department the following  
21 information regarding children and foster youth in the State child welfare system:

22 (1) the stability of school placements;

23 (2) the number of children with individualized education plans;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) the number of children with a plan under § 504 of the federal  
2 Rehabilitation Act;

3 (4) the number of children who have been retained a grade, disaggregated  
4 by grade;

5 (5) the number of children who graduate from high school;

6 (6) dropout rates;

7 (7) the number of children who are truant students, as defined in § 7-302.2  
8 of the Education Article;

9 (8) the rates of absenteeism;

10 (9) the rates of suspension;

11 (10) the rates of expulsion; [and]

12 (11) the number of school-based arrests; AND

13 **(12) THE NUMBER OF FOSTER YOUTH WHO ENROLL IN COLLEGE AND**  
14 **GRADUATE WITHIN 6 YEARS.**

15 (d) **(1)** In reporting the information required under subsections (b) and (c) of  
16 this section, the Department and the State Department of Education shall:

17 **[(1)] (I)** maintain the confidentiality of information on children and  
18 foster youth in the State child welfare system;

19 **[(2)] (II)** ensure that no personally identifiable information is disclosed;  
20 and

21 **[(3)] (III)** disaggregate the information by county, age, gender, race, and  
22 ethnicity.

23 **(2) IN REPORTING THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER**  
24 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL**  
25 **INCLUDE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, COMPARISON DATA FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS**  
26 **NOT IN THE STATE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

28 (a) In this section, “foster youth” has the meaning stated in § 5-304 of the Human  
29 Services Article.

1 (b) On or before December 1, 2026, the State Department of Education, in  
2 cooperation with the Department of Human Services, shall develop and submit a report to  
3 the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on  
4 improving outcomes for students in the State child welfare system.

5 (c) The report required under subsection (b) of this section shall:

6 (1) identify each State agency that provides services for foster youth;

7 (2) specifically for children and foster youth students, identify needs and  
8 gaps in services that could improve educational outcomes;

9 (3) identify best practices from other states that have demonstrated  
10 success with college and career readiness for foster youth;

11 (4) provide recommendations for improving educational outcomes for foster  
12 youth students in the State;

13 (5) evaluate the effectiveness of the information reported under § 5–1312  
14 of the Family Law Article; and

15 (6) provide recommendations for improving data collection and reporting  
16 requirements on foster youth students.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2026. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at  
19 the end of September 30, 2027, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the  
20 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.