

SENATE BILL 585

D4

0lr1352

By: **Senators Waldstreicher, Ready, and West**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Children in Out-of-Home Placements – Mandatory Concurrent**
3 **Planning**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, rather than authorizing, reasonable efforts to place a child
5 for adoption or with a legal guardian to be made concurrently with reasonable efforts
6 to preserve and reunify families under certain circumstances; and generally relating
7 to children in out-of-home placements.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Family Law

10 Section 5–525(e)(1) and (2)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Family Law

15 Section 5–525(e)(3)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Family Law**

21 5–525.

22 (e) (1) Unless a court orders that reasonable efforts are not required under §
23 3–812 of the Courts Article or § 5–323 of this title, reasonable efforts shall be made to
24 preserve and reunify families:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) prior to the placement of a child in an out-of-home placement,
2 to prevent or eliminate the need for removing the child from the child's home; and

3 (ii) to make it possible for a child to safely return to the child's home.

4 (2) In determining the reasonable efforts to be made and in making the
5 reasonable efforts described under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the child's safety and
6 health shall be the primary concern.

7 (3) Reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a legal guardian
8 **[may] SHALL** be made concurrently with the reasonable efforts described under paragraph
9 (1) of this subsection.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2020.