

# HOUSE BILL 542

D4, O4

4lr0736  
CF SB 668

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By: ~~Delegates Vogel, Acevero, Grossman, Kaufman, Palakovich Carr, Wilkins, and Wu~~ Wu, Crutchfield, Cardin, Pasteur, Toles, Schmidt, Simmons, Phillips, Roberson, Tomlinson, Arikan, Taylor, Simpson, Valentine, and Conaway

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Services – Children in Foster Care – Luggage**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain  
4 a decentralized supply of new luggage to be used to transport the personal belongings  
5 of a child in foster care; requiring the Department to provide new luggage to a child  
6 ~~who is being removed from a household~~ in foster care under certain circumstances;  
7 prohibiting the Department from using disposable bags or trash bags to transport  
8 any items for a child in foster care; requiring the Department to maintain certain  
9 records regarding luggage and children in foster care; and generally relating to the  
10 Department of Human Services and children in foster care.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Family Law

13 Section 5–505.2

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 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 **5–505.2.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "NEW LUGGAGE" MEANS A SUITCASE, DUFFEL  
2 BAG, BACKPACK, OR SIMILAR CONTAINER THAT:

3 (I) IS DESIGNED TO HOLD AN INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL  
4 BELONGINGS; AND

5 (II) HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY USED.

6 (2) "NEW LUGGAGE" DOES NOT INCLUDE A DISPOSABLE BAG OR  
7 TRASH BAG.

8 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

9 (1) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A DECENTRALIZED SUPPLY OF NEW  
10 LUGGAGE TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF A CHILD IN  
11 FOSTER CARE; AND

12 (2) DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR THE STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
13 NEW LUGGAGE INTENDED FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.

14 (C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) ~~AND (3)~~ THROUGH (4) OF THIS  
15 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NEW LUGGAGE TO A CHILD IN  
16 FOSTER CARE WHO IS ~~BEING REMOVED FROM A HOUSEHOLD:~~

17 (I) ENTERING FOSTER CARE;

18 (II) MOVING FROM ONE FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT TO  
19 ANOTHER; OR

20 (III) EXITING FOSTER CARE.

21 (2) NEW LUGGAGE PROVIDED TO A CHILD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:

22 (I) IS THE PROPERTY OF THE CHILD; AND

23 (II) MAY NOT BE RECLAIMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR  
24 RETAINED BY THE CHILD'S FOSTER PARENT.

25 (3) THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
26 NEW LUGGAGE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO A CHILD WHO:

27 (I) IS CHANGING PLACEMENT; AND

1 (II) IS IN POSSESSION OF NEW LUGGAGE PREVIOUSLY  
2 PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

3 (4) WHEN PROVIDING NEW LUGGAGE TO A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE,  
4 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHILD'S:

5 (I) AGE;

6 (II) MOBILITY;

7 (III) PERSONAL ITEMS TO BE TRANSPORTED; AND

8 (IV) PREFERENCES.

9 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT USE DISPOSABLE BAGS OR TRASH  
10 BAGS TO TRANSPORT ANY ITEMS OF A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE.

11 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF EACH  
12 INSTANCE IN WHICH A DISPOSABLE BAG OR TRASH BAG IS USED TO MOVE THE  
13 PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE.

14 ~~(2)~~ (3) THE RECORD REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH ~~(1)~~ (2) OF  
15 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE REASON THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT  
16 PROVIDE THE CHILD WITH NEW LUGGAGE TO MOVE THE CHILD'S PERSONAL  
17 BELONGINGS.

18 (E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SOLICIT AND ACCEPT GIFTS, GRANTS, AND  
19 DONATIONS OF ANY KIND AND FROM ANY SOURCE TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS  
20 OF THIS SECTION.

21 (F) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
22 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE  
23 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

24 (1) THE NUMBER OF INSTANCES IN WHICH A DISPOSABLE BAG OR  
25 TRASH BAG WAS USED TO TRANSPORT THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF A CHILD IN  
26 FOSTER CARE AND THE REASON THE DEPARTMENT FAILED TO PROVIDE THE CHILD  
27 IN FOSTER CARE WITH NEW LUGGAGE; AND

28 (2) THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPLY INVENTORY AND INVENTORY  
29 MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE NEW LUGGAGE SUPPLY MAINTAINED UNDER  
30 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

**HOUSE BILL 542**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2024.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.