



2017-2018 General Assembly

# SENATE BILL 257: Appropriations Act of 2017, Sec. 11C.4: Use of Foster Care Budget for Guardianship Assistance Program

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	September 13, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Tawanda N. Foster Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Sec. 11C.4 of S.L. 2017-57		

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**OVERVIEW:** Section 11C.4 of S. L. 2017-57 sets forth requirements for the use of Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) funds from the funds available for provision of foster care services. This section became effective July 1, 2017.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, may continue to provide guardianship assistance for children who are deemed to be (i) in a permanent family placement setting, (ii) eligible for legal guardianship, and (iii) otherwise unlikely to receive permanency.

- The GAP must also include provisions for extending guardianship services for individuals who are 18 or older and opt to continue to receive guardianship services until reaching 21 years of age if the individual is (i) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential, (ii) enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education, (iii) participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment, (iv) employed for at least 80 hours per month, or (v) incapable of completing the educational or employment requirements of this section due to a medical condition or disability.
- GAP rates must reimburse the legal guardian for room and board and are set at the same rate as the foster care room and board rates set by the general statutes.
- No additional expenses may be incurred beyond the funds budgeted for foster care for the Guardianship Assistance Program.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This section became effective July 1, 2017.

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