

(3) The local department shall:

(i) immediately determine whether a child treated or examined under this section is eligible for medical assistance payments; and

(ii) secure medical assistance benefits for any eligible child examined or treated under this section.

(f) To the extent possible, the Governor shall include in the annual State budget funds for the payment of emergency medical treatment for children examined or treated under this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Attorney General, in conjunction with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Secretary of Human Resources, shall convene a workgroup that consists of the following members:

(1) a State's Attorney with expertise in the prosecution of child abuse and neglect;

(2) local directors of social services;

(3) local health officers;

(4) a representative from the courts with expertise in child abuse and neglect issues; and

(5) individuals who have participated in the prosecution of a child abuse or neglect case as a witness, ~~especially~~ including pediatricians.

(b) The workgroup:

(1) shall ~~investigate~~ study and make recommendations on the use of, reimbursement for, availability of, and implementation of videoconferencing as a resource in ~~a child abuse or neglect investigation~~ investigations in the State; and

(2) on or before December 1, 2005, shall report its findings and recommendations, in

~~(c) The workgroup shall submit a report on or before December 1, 2005, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly regarding recommendations on videoconferencing as a resource in a child abuse or neglect investigation.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 20, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House