

1 nurtured by foster parents who have been selected to meet his or
2 her individual needs, and who are provided services and support,
3 including specialized education, so that the child can grow in its
4 ability to enable the child to reach his or her potentiality.

5 (c) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to
6 receive sensitive, continuing help in understanding and accepting
7 the reasons for the child's own family's inability to take care of
8 him or her, and in developing confidence in his or her own self
9 worth.

10 (d) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to
11 receive continuing loving care and respect as a unique human being.

12 (e) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to be a
13 child growing in trust in himself, herself and others.

14 (f) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to grow
15 up in freedom and dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept
16 him or her with understanding, respect and friendship.

17 (g) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to
18 receive help in overcoming deprivation or whatever distortion in
19 his or her emotional, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual
20 growth may have resulted from his or her early experiences.

21 (h) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to
22 receive education, training and career guidance to prepare for a
23 useful and satisfying life.

24 (i) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to

1 receive preparation for citizenship and parenthood through
2 interaction with foster parents and other adults who are consistent
3 role models.

4 (j) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to be
5 represented by an attorney-at-law in administrative or judicial
6 proceedings with access to fair hearings and court review of
7 decisions, so that his or her best interests are safeguarded.

8 (k) Every child in foster care has the inherent right to
9 receive a high quality of child welfare services, including
10 involvement of the natural parents, where appropriate, and his or
11 her own involvement in major decisions that affect his or her
12 life.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a bill of rights for children in foster care.

§49-2-12a is new; therefore it has been completely underscored.