

HOUSE BILL 554

O4

0lr2431
CF SB 478

By: **Delegates Jones, Aumann, Bohanan, Dumais, Griffith, Gutierrez, Kramer, Lafferty, Lee, Montgomery, Myers, Niemann, Rudolph, and Sophocleus**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2010
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Residential Child Care Facilities – Incident Reporting – Interagency**
3 **Workgroup**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain interagency workgroup to develop a certain
5 uniform incident reporting system and to adopt certain regulations; requiring
6 the interagency workgroup to make a certain report on or before a certain date;
7 and generally relating to an interagency workgroup on residential child care
8 facilities and incident reporting.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, The departments that license and monitor the State’s residential
11 child care facilities have competing, conflicting, overlapping, and redundant systems
12 for incident reporting that generate thousands of incident reports each year; and

13 WHEREAS, It is a wasteful use of scarce resources and not in the best interest
14 of children in out-of-home placement for departments with shared responsibility for a
15 child to make placement or treatment decisions without knowledge of all of the
16 relevant incident reports that are generated on a particular child; now, therefore,

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

19 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Juvenile
20 Services, and Department of Human Resources shall establish an interagency
21 workgroup to:

22 (1) develop a uniform reporting system to be used by any agency in the
23 State that licenses or purchases care and services for children who are placed in
24 residential facilities licensed by the State;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) adopt regulations requiring interagency sharing of incident reports
2 when more than one department has responsibility for the child who is the subject of
3 the incident report; and

4 (3) adopt regulations requiring any department that licenses or
5 monitors residential child care facilities to adhere to specific incident reporting policies
6 and practices.

7 (b) On or before September 1, 2011, the interagency workgroup established
8 under subsection (a) of this section shall report its findings to the Governor and, in
9 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2010.