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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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HB 1100

**Health – Child Advocacy Centers – Reporting Requirements and  
Investigations**

**Support**

HB1100, which requires the Behavioral Health Administration to oversee child advocacy centers and includes provisions for investigating complaints related to these centers, is a crucial step towards ensuring that our children are always protected and guaranteed justice.

Child advocacy centers play a vital role in our communities, serving as a safe haven for children who have experienced abuse or harm. However, without proper oversight and mechanisms to investigate allegations of misconduct, there is a gap in our ability to ensure that these centers are fulfilling their critical mission.

This bill will empower the Behavioral Health Administration to oversee child advocacy centers, ensuring that they adhere to the highest standards of care and safety. By requiring these centers to report certain information annually and authorizing investigations into complaints, we can proactively address any concerns and hold these centers accountable.

The Maryland Children's Alliance reports that there are 24 child advocacy centers in our state, handling a significant number of cases each year. With this volume of cases, it is imperative that we have measures in place to guarantee fair and safe treatment for every child who receives help from these centers.

Child advocacy centers provide a range of essential services, from medical evaluation and treatment to therapeutic intervention and victim support. It is crucial that these services are provided in a manner that prioritizes the well-being and rights of children.