



Judicial Proceedings
SENATE BILL 195: Juveniles – Arrest by Law Enforcement – Report to Local
Department of Social Services
February 13, 2024

OPPOSE

The Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers represents over 3,000 social workers statewide. We believe that SB195, which would mandate a report to Child Protective Services for the purpose of a neglect investigation when a child under 13 is arrested for use and possession of a gun, or on the second arrest of a child for any other offense, does not have ‘value added’ for the protection of children.

The child serving agency responsible for the protection of children from harm by caregivers is the Department of Human Services. However, as the child protection agency, the Department of Human Resources has neither special expertise nor tools for responding to children facing gun or other legal charges.

The Department of Juvenile Services, on the other hand, is the child-serving agency responsible for public protection and assessing the needs of children and youth who have committed offenses. Reporting any suspicions of child maltreatment that arise during assessment to Child Protective Services for investigation is already mandatory.

In short, Senate Bill 195, isn’t necessary; regulations are already in place to mandate reporting children suspected of being maltreated to DHS for investigation and, when necessary for the child’s protection, to initiate services and/or court involvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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