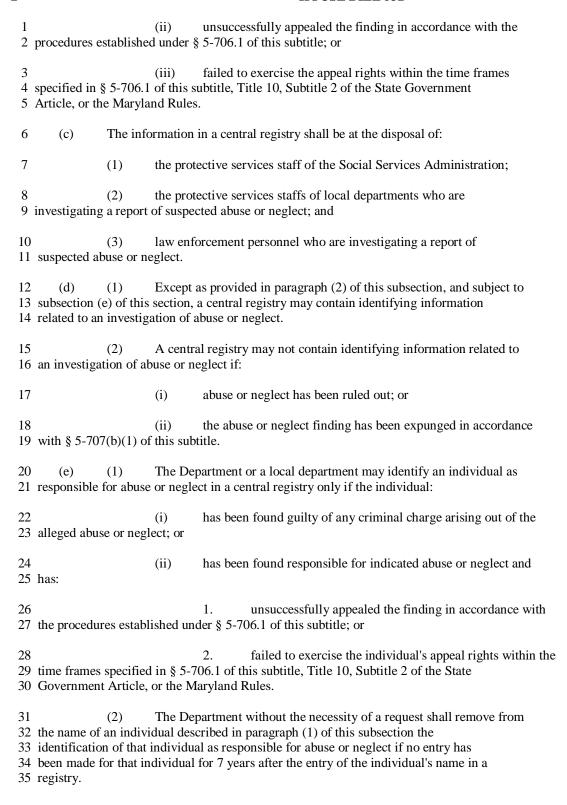
Unofficial Copy D4 2003 Regular Session 3lr1662

By: Delegates Zirkin and Morhaim Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2003 Assigned to: Judiciary A BILL ENTITLED 1 AN ACT concerning 2 Family Law - Central Registry - Exception 3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a central registry maintained by Department of Human Resources of information regarding child abuse or neglect investigations 4 5 from including the identity of an individual related to an investigation of neglect 6 or found responsible for neglect under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the central registry. 7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, 8 Article - Family Law 9 Section 5-714 10 11 Annotated Code of Maryland (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement) 12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 13 14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: 15 **Article - Family Law** 16 5-714. 17 The Social Services Administration and each local department may (a) maintain a central registry of cases reported under this subtitle. 19 The respective local departments throughout this State shall provide (b) (1) 20 the information for a central registry. Except for identifying information authorized under subsection (d) of 21 22 this section, a central registry may not include information from a local department 23 case file until any individual found responsible for indicated or unsubstantiated child 24 abuse or neglect has: 25 been found guilty of any criminal charge arising from the 26 alleged abuse or neglect;

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1 (f) (1) Except for information entered in accordance with subsection (e) of 2 this section, information in a central registry may not be used as a sole basis for 3 responding to any request for background information for employment or voluntary 4 service. 5 An official or employee of the Department or a local department who (2) 6 releases information from a central registry in violation of paragraph (1) of this 7 subsection is subject to the penalty provided in Article 88A, § 6(e) of the Code. 8 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW. THE CENTRAL (G) 9 REGISTRY MAY NOT INCLUDE THE IDENTITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL RELATED TO AN 10 INVESTIGATION OF NEGLECT OR FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGLECT WHEN: A CHILD HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM A HOSPITAL OR OTHER 11 (1) 12 FACILITY; THE CHILD HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A MENTAL DISORDER OR 13 14 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY; AND 15 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS FAILED TO TAKE THE CHILD HOME DUE TO A (3) 16 REASONABLE FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILD OR CHILD'S FAMILY. 17 [(g)](H) The Secretary of Human Resources: 18 shall adopt regulations necessary to protect the rights of individuals (1) 19 suspected of abuse or neglect; and 20 may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section. (2) 21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 22 October 1, 2003.