

HOUSE BILL 1120

D4, E3

2lr2616
CF SB 1045

By: Delegates Carter, Alston, Anderson, Barnes, Boteler, Braveboy, Cane, Dumais, Haynes, Holmes, Kach, K. Kelly, Lee, Mitchell, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Proctor, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Simmons, Smigiel, Stukes, Tarrant, F. Turner, Walker, and Washington

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2012

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Missing Children – Search Efforts and Collaboration**
3 **(Phylcia’s Law)**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~altering a certain factor that a law enforcement agency considers~~
5 ~~when evaluating a report regarding a missing child;~~ altering the requirement
6 that a law enforcement agency institute appropriate search procedures to locate
7 certain missing children to include the coordination of volunteer search teams;
8 clarifying the name of the organization that a law enforcement agency must
9 notify after receiving a certain missing child report; requiring a law
10 enforcement agency that is attempting to locate a child to make an effort to
11 include certain organizations and groups if appropriate; requiring the State
12 Clearinghouse for Missing Children ~~to coordinate certain entities to locate~~
13 ~~certain missing children; requiring the Clearinghouse to oversee search efforts~~
14 ~~used to locate certain missing children; requiring the Clearinghouse to publish~~
15 certain information relating to missing children in the State; authorizing the
16 Clearinghouse to establish and maintain a list of organizations and groups that
17 provide volunteer search teams or resources relating to missing children; and
18 generally relating to missing children.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Family Law
21 Section 9–402 and 9–403

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – Family Law**

6 9–402.

7 (a) On receipt of a report regarding a missing child by a law enforcement
8 agency, the law enforcement agency shall immediately determine if:

9 (1) the missing child has not been the subject of a prior missing
10 persons report;

11 (2) the missing child suffers from a mental or physical handicap or
12 illness;

13 (3) the disappearance of the missing child is of a suspicious or
14 dangerous nature;

15 (4) the person filing the report of a missing child has reason to believe
16 that the missing child may have been abducted;

17 (5) the missing child has ever previously been the subject of a child
18 abuse report filed with the State or local law enforcement agency; or

19 (6) the missing child is under ~~14~~ 17 years of age.

20 (b) Upon conclusion by the law enforcement agency that any one of the
21 conditions specified in subsection (a) of this section exists, the law enforcement agency
22 shall immediately:

23 (1) enter all necessary and available information into the Maryland
24 Interagency Law Enforcement System (MILES) and the National Crime Information
25 Center (NCIC) computer networks;

26 (2) institute appropriate intensive search procedures, **INCLUDING**
27 **THE COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEER SEARCH TEAMS;**

28 (3) notify the National **[Missing Children Information Center]**
29 **CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN** and forward to the State
30 Clearinghouse for Missing Children a copy of the missing persons report involving the
31 missing child;

1 (4) notify the appropriate local department and, to the extent possible,
2 obtain any information that may assist in the locating of the missing child; and

3 (5) enlist the aid of the Department of State Police, when appropriate,
4 in locating the missing child.

5 (c) If the conditions specified in subsection (a) of this section do not exist, the
6 law enforcement agency shall:

7 (1) immediately seek to determine the circumstances surrounding the
8 disappearance of the missing child; and

9 (2) implement the procedures set forth in subsection (b) of this section
10 within 12 hours of the filing of a report regarding a missing child, if the missing child
11 has not been located.

12 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a missing child
13 has not been located within 24 hours of the filing of a missing persons report and
14 either the local law enforcement agency or the Department of State Police have reason
15 to believe that the missing child may be located in a jurisdiction other than the
16 jurisdiction where the missing persons report was filed, the Department of State
17 Police shall enter the investigation and, in cooperation with the appropriate local law
18 enforcement agencies, assist State and national efforts to locate the missing child.

19 (e) (1) A law enforcement agency may not establish a mandatory waiting
20 period before beginning an investigation to locate a missing child.

21 (2) A law enforcement agency may not adopt rules, regulations, or
22 policies that prohibit or discourage the filing of a report or the taking of any action on
23 a report that a child is a missing child or that a child is believed to be a missing child.

24 (f) Every person filing a report of a missing child shall be required to notify
25 the local law enforcement agency and the Department of State Police immediately
26 upon the locating of the missing child if it is unlikely that the local law enforcement
27 agency or the Department of State Police have knowledge that the missing child has
28 been located.

29 **(G) A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT IS ATTEMPTING TO**
30 **LOCATE A MISSING CHILD SHALL MAKE AN EFFORT TO INCLUDE**
31 **ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS THAT PROVIDE VOLUNTEER SEARCH TEAMS OR**
32 **RESOURCES RELATING TO MISSING CHILDREN IF APPROPRIATE.**

33 9-403.

34 (a) There is a State Clearinghouse for Missing Children operated by the
35 Department of State Police that is responsible for:

1 (1) the receipt, collection, and distribution of general information and
2 annual statistics regarding missing children; and

3 (2) coordination of law enforcement agencies and other interested
4 persons or groups within and outside the State regarding information on children who
5 have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, Maryland.

6 **(B) FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM OR ARE THOUGHT**
7 **TO BE LOCATED IN THE STATE, THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING**
8 **CHILDREN ~~SHALL~~:**

9 ~~(1) COORDINATE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES,~~
10 ~~NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS, MISSING CHILDREN EXPERTS,~~
11 ~~AND THE FAMILY OF A MISSING CHILD TO LOCATE THE MISSING CHILDREN;~~

12 ~~(2) OVERSEE SEARCH EFFORTS USED TO LOCATE MISSING~~
13 ~~CHILDREN; AND~~

14 ~~(3) SHALL PUBLISH:~~

15 (i) THE NAMES OF AND RELEVANT AVAILABLE
16 INFORMATION ON MISSING CHILDREN; AND

17 ~~(ii) UPDATES REGARDING THE LOCATION OF MISSING~~
18 ~~CHILDREN; AND~~

19 ~~(iii) ANNUAL STATISTICS REGARDING MISSING CHILDREN;~~
20 AND

21 (2) MAY ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS
22 AND GROUPS THAT PROVIDE VOLUNTEER SEARCH TEAMS OR RESOURCES
23 RELATING TO MISSING CHILDREN.

24 [(b)] (C) The Secretary of State Police may develop, in cooperation with
25 local law enforcement agencies, a plan for voluntary fingerprinting programs for
26 children.

27 [(c)] (D) (1) An advisory council shall be appointed having the following
28 responsibilities:

29 (i) review of the activities of the State Clearinghouse;

30 (ii) review of the training provided for, and investigatory
31 procedures used by, law enforcement personnel in the locating of missing children;

1 (iii) examine possible methods for identifying missing children
2 prior to enrollment in a public or nonpublic school; and

3 (iv) explore the feasibility and effectiveness of utilizing the
4 Federal Parent Locator Service in locating missing children.

5 (2) The advisory council shall consist of the following members:

6 (i) 1 person from the Department of Juvenile Services, to be
7 designated by the Secretary of Juvenile Services;

8 (ii) 1 person from the Maryland State Department of Education,
9 to be designated by the State Superintendent of Schools;

10 (iii) 1 person from the Department of State Police, to be
11 appointed by the Secretary of State Police;

12 (iv) the Special Secretary of the Office for Children, Youth, and
13 Families, who shall serve as chairman of the advisory council;

14 (v) the President of the Governor's Youth Advisory Council or a
15 designee of the President from the Council;

16 (vi) 1 member from the State Sheriff's Association, to be
17 designated by the President of the Association;

18 (vii) 1 member from the State Chiefs of Police Association, to be
19 designated by the President of the Association; and

20 (viii) 2 members from the public at-large, to be appointed by the
21 Governor.

22 **[(d)] (E)** (1) The term of council members from the public shall be 2
23 years.

24 (2) At the end of a term, a council member from the public shall
25 continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

26 (3) Council members from the public may serve successive terms.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2012.