

HOUSE BILL 968

D4, F1, O4

7lr1138
CF 7lr1143

By: **Delegate Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children – Health and Safety – Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline and Signage**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Social Services Administration of the Department of
4 Human Resources to establish a certain hotline to make certain reports of suspected
5 child abuse or neglect; requiring the Administration to develop a certain
6 methodology to track certain numbers and types of calls to a certain hotline;
7 requiring the Administration to put certain records of certain calls to a certain
8 hotline in a child abuse or neglect central registry; requiring the Administration to
9 create a certain sign that contains certain information to be made available
10 electronically to certain local school systems; requiring a certain sign to be made
11 available in certain languages; requiring the Department to adopt certain
12 regulations; requiring public schools to post certain signs that contain certain
13 information in certain areas of the school; defining certain terms; and generally
14 relating to the establishment of a Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Education

17 Section 7–440

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Family Law

22 Section 5–716

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-440.

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) "ABUSE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701(B) OF THE
5 FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

6 (3) "CHILD" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701(E) OF THE FAMILY
7 LAW ARTICLE.

8 (4) "NEGLECT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701(S) OF THE
9 FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

10 (5) "SEXUAL ABUSE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-701(X) OF THE
11 FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

12 (B) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL POST CONSPICUOUSLY IN A
13 HIGH-TRAFFIC, WIDELY USED AREA OF THE SCHOOL A SIGN THAT CONTAINS:

14 (1) THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
15 HOTLINE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-716 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE; AND

16 (2) INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROPERLY REPORT A SUSPICION OF
17 CHILD ABUSE, CHILD NEGLECT, OR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

18 Article - Family Law

19 5-716.

20 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE, TOLL-FREE,
21 24-HOUR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT HOTLINE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY USE TO
22 MAKE A REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

23 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

24 (1) DEVELOP A METHODOLOGY TO TRACK THE NUMBERS AND TYPES
25 OF CALLS RECEIVED BY THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT HOTLINE; AND

26 (2) PUT A RECORD OF EACH CALL MADE TO THE CHILD ABUSE AND
27 NEGLECT HOTLINE IN A CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT CENTRAL REGISTRY
28 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-714 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

1 **(C) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CREATE A SIGN THAT CONTAINS:**

2 **(I) THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CHILD ABUSE AND**
3 **NEGLECT HOTLINE; AND**

4 **(II) INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROPERLY REPORT A SUSPICION**
5 **OF CHILD ABUSE, CHILD NEGLECT, OR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.**

6 **(2) THE SIGN SHALL BE PROVIDED IN EACH LANGUAGE THAT IS**
7 **SPOKEN BY MORE THAN 1% OF THE STATE'S POPULATION.**

8 **(3) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL MAKE THE SIGN AVAILABLE**
9 **ELECTRONICALLY TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

10 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE**
11 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2017.