

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 256  
Judiciary

(Delegate Carozza, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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Adult Protective Services - Investigation - Time Period Increase

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This bill increases, from 30 to 60 days, the period of time during which a local department of social services must complete an investigation of a report of suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of an alleged vulnerable adult when the report does not indicate that an emergency exists.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Although increasing the time period by which reports must be completed may positively affect the workload of local departments of social services, any such impact does not materially impact the finances of the Department of Human Resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Local departments of social services must begin a thorough investigation within five working days after receiving a report of suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation. If the report indicates that an emergency exists, the investigation must begin within 24 hours. Investigations must include a determination of whether the individual is a vulnerable adult and whether there has been abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation. If the individual is determined to be a vulnerable adult and to have suffered abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation, the investigation must include (1) a determination of the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or

exploitation; (2) a determination of the identity of the person or persons responsible; (3) an evaluation of the home environment; and (4) a determination of any other pertinent facts.

On request by the local department, the local State's Attorney or appropriate law enforcement agency must assist in the investigation. As appropriate, the local office on aging or the Department of Aging, local geriatric evaluation service, or other public or private agencies, as specified, may assist in the investigation at the request of the local department. Agencies may jointly agree to cooperative arrangements for investigation, and parties participating in an investigation may share pertinent client information. If a report indicates that an emergency exists, an investigation must be completed within 10 days; otherwise, an investigation must be completed within 30 days.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County; Department of Human Resources; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 30, 2017  
fn/kdm Third Reader - February 24, 2017

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