

# HOUSE BILL 600

D4  
HB 1198/17 – JUD

8lr2177  
CF SB 131

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By: **Delegates McComas, Afzali, Arentz, Buckel, Clark, Corderman, Folden, Ghrist, Glass, Hornberger, Kipke, Kittleman, Long, Malone, McConkey, McKay, Metzgar, W. Miller, Reilly, Saab, Shoemaker, Vogt, West, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse and Neglect – Training**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that each health practitioner, police officer, educator, and  
4 human service worker in this State receive periodic training on the obligation to  
5 report child abuse and neglect and on the identification of abused and neglected  
6 children; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Family Law  
9 Section 5–704  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Family Law**

15 5–704.

16 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any law on privileged  
17 communications, each health practitioner, police officer, educator, or human service  
18 worker, acting in a professional capacity in this State:

19 (1) who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or  
20 neglect, shall notify the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency; and

21 (2) if acting as a staff member of a hospital, public health agency, child care  
22 institution, juvenile detention center, school, or similar institution, shall immediately

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 notify and give all information required by this section to the head of the institution or the  
2 designee of the head.

3 (b) (1) An individual who notifies the appropriate authorities under subsection  
4 (a) of this section shall make:

5 (i) an oral report, by telephone or direct communication, as soon as  
6 possible to the local department or appropriate law enforcement agency; and

7 (ii) a written report:

8 1. to the local department not later than 48 hours after the  
9 contact, examination, attention, or treatment that caused the individual to believe that the  
10 child had been subjected to abuse or neglect; and

11 2. with a copy to the local State's Attorney.

12 (2) (i) An agency to which an oral report of suspected abuse or neglect  
13 is made under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall immediately notify the other agency.

14 (ii) This paragraph does not prohibit a local department and an  
15 appropriate law enforcement agency from agreeing to cooperative arrangements.

16 (c) Insofar as is reasonably possible, an individual who makes a report under this  
17 section shall include in the report the following information:

18 (1) the name, age, and home address of the child;

19 (2) the name and home address of the child's parent or other person who is  
20 responsible for the child's care;

21 (3) the whereabouts of the child;

22 (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child, including any  
23 evidence or information available to the reporter concerning possible previous instances of  
24 abuse or neglect; and

25 (5) any other information that would help to determine:

26 (i) the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect; and

27 (ii) the identity of any individual responsible for the abuse or neglect.

28 **(D) EACH HEALTH PRACTITIONER, POLICE OFFICER, EDUCATOR, AND**  
29 **HUMAN SERVICE WORKER IN THIS STATE SHALL RECEIVE PERIODIC TRAINING ON:**

30 **(1) THE OBLIGATION TO REPORT ABUSE AND NEGLECT AS REQUIRED**

1 BY THIS SECTION; AND

2 (2) THE IDENTIFICATION OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2018.