A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Child Abuse and Neglect – Training

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law
Section 5–704
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

5–704.

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

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

(2) if acting as a staff member of a hospital, public health agency, child care institution, juvenile detention center, school, or similar institution, shall immediately
notify and give all information required by this section to the head of the institution or the
designee of the head.

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

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

(ii) a written report:

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

2. with a copy to the local State’s Attorney.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) the whereabouts of the child;

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

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

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

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

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

(1) THE OBLIGATION TO REPORT ABUSE AND NEGLECT AS REQUIRED
BY THIS SECTION; AND

(2) THE IDENTIFICATION OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

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