

HOUSE BILL 646

D4
HB 937/17 – JUD

11r2128
CF SB 369

By: **Delegate Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse and Neglect – Memorandum of Understanding With Military**
3 **Family Advocacy Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain local departments of social services to enter into a
5 memorandum of understanding with a certain military family advocacy program;
6 establishing certain requirements for a memorandum of understanding under this
7 Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

8 BY adding to
9 Article – Family Law
10 Section 5–705.5
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Family Law**

16 **5–705.5.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM” MEANS**
18 **THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**
19 **TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND DOMESTIC ABUSE IN MILITARY**

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 FAMILIES.

2 (B) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT THAT HAS A UNITED STATES MILITARY
3 INSTALLATION LOCATED WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION SHALL ENTER INTO A
4 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY
5 PROGRAM AT THE LOCAL MILITARY INSTALLATION.

6 (C) A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL
7 ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR:

8 (1) IDENTIFYING AN INDIVIDUAL ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED
9 ABUSE OR NEGLECT AS MILITARY PERSONNEL;

10 (2) REPORTING BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO A MILITARY FAMILY
11 ADVOCACY PROGRAM WHEN AN INVESTIGATION IMPLICATING MILITARY
12 PERSONNEL HAS BEEN INITIATED; AND

13 (3) MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER STATE
14 AND FEDERAL LAW.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.