

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 9  
Judiciary

(Delegate Shetty)

Judicial Proceedings

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Family Law - Mandatory Reporter Training

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This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to post on its website a free online course on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any minimal costs to DHS associated with the bill's requirement can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Child abuse is the physical or mental injury of a child younger than age 18 that indicates the child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed by a (1) parent; (2) family or household member; (3) person who has permanent or temporary custody of the child; (4) person who has responsibility for supervision of the child; or (5) exercises authority over the child because of their position or occupation. Child abuse is also any sexual injury of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.

Mandatory reporters of child abuse include health care practitioners, police officers, educators, and human service workers who are acting in a professional capacity and who have reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect. Mandatory reporters must notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency. In general, a person other than a mandatory reporter who has

reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect must notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 460 of 2020 passed the House but received no further action from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services.

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 12, 2021  
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