HOUSE BILL 764

By: Delegates Valentino-Smith, Carr, Chang, Charles, Foley, Fraser-Hidalgo, Guyton, Henson, Howell, Landis, Love, Patterson, Pena-Melnyk, Qi, and Solomon

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022
Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 2, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Department of Human Services – Missing Individuals Children in Out-of-Home Placements – Reporting

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Services and local departments of social services to report to local law enforcement agencies certain information about missing individuals who are under a guardianship administered by the Department; children who are in an out-of-home placement; and generally relating to missing individuals under a guardianship administered by the Department of Human Services children in out-of-home placements.

4 BY adding to

5 Article – Human Services

6 Section 3–603

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

10 Article – Human Services

11 3–603.

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.
(A) This section applies only to children who are in an out–of–home placement as defined in § 5–501 of the Family Law Article.

(B) Within 24 hours immediately after a discovery that an individual under a guardianship administered by the Department a child is missing, the Department and or the appropriate local Department of Social Services shall submit a report to the local law enforcement agency containing any information the Department or local Department of Social Services has or reasonably could obtain that would assist in locating the individual child, including:

1. The individual’s child’s name and birthdate;
2. A photograph of the individual child;
3. Identifying physical characteristics of the individual child;
4. The last known location of the individual child;
5. The amount of time the individual child has been missing;
6. The name and contact information of the individual making the report and that individual’s relationship to the missing individual child;
7. The name and contact information of the employee of the Department or the employee’s designee who should be contacted when the individual child is located; and
8. The address of the individual child.

(B) The Department or the appropriate local Department of Social Services shall ensure that it keeps a record of the report number provided by the local law enforcement agency for each report submitted under this section.

(D) The Department may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.