



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1281 – Adult Protective Services – Vulnerable Adults Registry – Investigations Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study

SPONSOR: Delegate Wanika Fisher

HEARING DATE: March 4, 2021

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services (the Department) **SUPPORTS House Bill 1281** which will require local departments of social services to establish a centralized registry of individuals who have been determined after an Adult Protective Services (APS) investigation to have abused or neglected a vulnerable adult.

House Bill 1281 will have a positive impact on the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program within the State of Maryland.

This bill allows for the individual to request a conference with the supervisor and/or contest the finding through an appeals process. **House Bill 1281** also requires that the Social Services Administration (SSA) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) adopt regulations surrounding acquisition of records, confidentiality, creation of a centralized confidential database and establishing a workgroup to study best practices for a Vulnerable Adult Registry in Maryland.

The workgroup would study and make recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Department of Legislative Services regarding the implementation of the registry.

For the reasons stated above, the Prince George's County Department of Social Services **SUPPORTS House Bill 1281** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.