

MCPA-MSA_HB 764 _Department of Human Services-Miss

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 23, 2022

RE: **HB 764 – Department of Human Services – Missing Individuals - Reporting**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 764**. This bill seeks to strengthen procedures followed by DHS when a child placed under a guardianship is missing.

When a child in guardianship goes missing, time is of the essence. These children may be suffering from a mental or physical handicap, or another vulnerable situation. They may also find themselves in harm's way. Law enforcement needs to be notified immediately to determine the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the child and to do their best to locate the child to be returned to the appointed guardian. An appointed guardian could also be a local department of social services.

Requiring DHS to immediately notify law enforcement of the missing child and having them provide the information outlined in the bill would help law enforcement officers tremendously in their search. The reporting provided from DHS under this bill would help ensure that law enforcement has all tools necessary to locate the missing child in the most crucial hours following their disappearance.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 764** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

HB0764_DHS_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Sledge

Position: FAV

Date: March 23, 2022

Bill number: HB0764

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Bill title: Department of Human Services - Missing Children in Out-of-Home Placements - Reporting

DHS Position: Favorable

The Department respectfully submits this letter of support regarding House Bill 764 (HB 764).

House Bill 764 will create clear guidelines for collaboration between Maryland's 24 local departments of social services and local law enforcement regarding missing children who are in an out-of-home placement. This bill specifies what information should be provided to law enforcement when a child in an out-of-home placement with the Department runs away or is absent without leave (AWOL).

The Department appreciates the collaboration with the sponsor and the House Judiciary Committee in adopting amendments to the original bill.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 764 and requests a favorable report as amended.