



MASSD *Maryland Association of Social Service Directors*

Chair
Roberta Baldwin, Worcester County

Vice Chairs
Susan Coppage, Queen Anne's County
Alexis Zoss, St. Mary's County

Treasurer
Carnitra White, Anne Arundel County
Secretary
Shelly Neal-Edwards Kent County

Date: February 9, 2022

Bill number: SB0357

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Bill title: Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study

Position: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Association of Social Services Directors (MASSD) offers this letter of support, with amendments, for Senate Bill 357 (SB 357). SB 357 directs the Department Human Services to create an Adult Protective Services (APS) registry that captures the outcome of abuse and neglect investigations for vulnerable adults. The bill also creates a workgroup to study how best to design and implement a Statewide registry.

There are currently 26 states with APS adult abuser registries. A report published in 2018 by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) highlights the scope of registries, key organizational characteristics and processes, resources used to operate registries, access to and uses of registry information, and perspectives on lessons learned by states in operating registries.¹ Themes arising from the information collected in this study include but are not limited to:

- Reducing access of abusers to vulnerable adults and improving hiring practices of providers through the implementation of APS abuse registries;
- Significant diversity in operations and uses of APS abuse registries;
- Common components of APS abuse registries include perpetrator notification and the existence of due process provisions;
- Resources needed to operate APS abuse registries;
- Length of time and administrative considerations of due process and information systems;

In order to adequately address these questions, MASSD recommends that the substantive portions of the bill that attempt to address due process concerns be struck, and left for the workgroup to deliberate. Specifically, MASSD recommends removing all language beginning on page 4, line 21, through page 14, line 6.

¹ <http://www.napsa-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/APS-Abuse-Registry-Report.pdf>

MASSD appreciates the opportunity to support SB 357, with amendments, and requests a favorable report.