

Date: March 29, 2022

Bill number: HB0833

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Bill title: **Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response**

DHS Position: **Letter of Information**

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide further considerations regarding House Bill 833 (HB 833).

DHS appreciates working with the House Sponsor and House Committee to adopt certain amendments regarding the role and responsibility of regional navigators. In light of the adopted amendments by the House of Delegates, DHS respectfully requests the Committee take into consideration the following technical amendments:

- Page 4 starting on line 31: - We already have a statute outlining this process and would like this to read the same. Here is our proposed change:
(iii) Keep custody only until the local department either takes custody under § 3-815 of this Article or authorizes release of the child unless the officer determines that it is safe to return the child to the child's parent, custodian, or guardian. [This mirrors CJP 3-814 (b) (3)]
- Page 4 line 28- Substitute Local Department of Social Services instead of Local Child Welfare Agency
- Page 6 line 3-4 Substitute Local Department of Social Services instead of DHS.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these proposed amendments to the committee for consideration during your deliberations.

