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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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House Bill 31

Juvenile Law – Electronic Harassment and Bullying Support

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services intake officer to forward a complaint filed by a child who alleges that another child bullied or harassed them using electronic communication devices directly to the State Attorney's office, so long as neither party has previous interaction with the Department of Juvenile Services.

Absent this bill, parents who file a peace order seeking to protect their child from cyberbullying by another child are forced to wait until their case is vetted by the Department of Juvenile Services. Time and again their case falls through the cracks, or no action is taken given the case load of the intake officers at the Department of Juvenile Services.

Ideally, we want the court to have jurisdiction over juvenile peace orders which may require an amendment.