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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Judiciary Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Family and Juvenile Law

Public Safety



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13, 2025

The House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
6 Bladen Street,  
House Office Building, Room 101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB542: Adult Protective Services-Investigations and Disclosure of Information**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee

This legislation will allow the local departments of social services to request the assistance of federal law enforcement officers when working on investigations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

Local departments investigating victimization of vulnerable adults must follow Family Law §14-101 et seq. Specifically, this section of the code states the timeline for when the investigation must begin, what the investigation will include, and with whom the local department may share information. It is that latter piece that HB542 addresses.

Currently, when conducting these Adult Protective Services investigations, there are two categories of entities that the local department may work with and share information:

1. The local State's Attorney or appropriate law enforcement agency.
2. The local office on aging or the Department of Aging, local geriatric evaluation service, or other agency providing services or care to the alleged vulnerable adult, or whose information or expertise may be of assistance in assessing risk or planning services.

Both groups may assist in the investigation at the request of the local department. However, there is no legal authority for them to work with *federal* law enforcement. For example, when a local department is investigating a case of mail fraud, they do not have the statutory authority to request the assistance of the U.S. Postal Inspector. It is this gap that HB542 seeks to close.

**I respectfully request your favorable report on HB542.**

Sincerely,

*Charlotte Crutchfield*

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield