

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1386
Ways and Means

(Delegate Valentino-Smith, *et al.*)

Public Schools - Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline - Sign

This bill requires each public school in the State to post conspicuously in a high-traffic, widely used area a sign containing the telephone number of the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline. The sign must be displayed in English and Spanish. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local finances or operations. Local school systems can post the required signage with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), local school systems and MSDE provide professional development on child abuse and neglect reporting to school staff annually. School counselors and other professionals make information about child abuse prevention and reporting available to students and families in a variety of ways, including at parent meetings, mailings to home, and by making educational materials available at the school.

According to its website, the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse. Serving the United States and Canada, the hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with professional crisis counselors who – through

interpreters – provide assistance in over 170 languages. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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