HOUSE BILL 646

By: **Delegate Valentino–Smith**
Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2021
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Child Abuse and Neglect – Memorandum of Understanding With Military**
3   **Family Advocacy Program**

4   FOR the purpose of requiring certain local departments of social services to enter into a
5   memorandum of understanding with a certain military family advocacy program;
6   establishing certain requirements for a memorandum of understanding under this
7   Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to child abuse and neglect.

8   BY adding to
9   Article – Family Law
10   Section 5–705.5
11   Annotated Code of Maryland
12   (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14   That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15   **Article – Family Law**

16   **5–705.5.**

17   (A)   IN THIS SECTION, "MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM" MEANS
18   THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
19   TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND DOMESTIC ABUSE IN MILITARY
20   FAMILIES.

21   (B)   A LOCAL DEPARTMENT THAT HAS A UNITED STATES MILITARY
22   INSTALLATION LOCATED WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION SHALL ENTER INTO A
23   MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
    [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1   **PROGRAM AT THE LOCAL MILITARY INSTALLATION.**

2   **(C)   A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL**
3 **ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR:**

4   **(1)   IDENTIFYING AN INDIVIDUAL ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED**
5 **ABUSE OR NEGLECT AS MILITARY PERSONNEL;**

6   **(2)   REPORTING BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO A MILITARY FAMILY**
7 **ADVOCACY PROGRAM WHEN AN INVESTIGATION IMPLICATING MILITARY**
8 **PERSONNEL HAS BEEN INITIATED; AND**

9   **(3)   MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER STATE**
10 **AND FEDERAL LAW.**

11   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2021.