

SENATE BILL 12

D4
SB 1055/14 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0618
CF HB 7

By: **Senator DeGrange**

Requested: November 18, 2014

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2015

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Child Abuse and Neglect – Expungement of Reports and Records –**
3 **Time Period**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a local department of social services to maintain certain
5 reports of suspected abuse or neglect and all assessments and investigative findings
6 for a certain purpose for certain periods of time; altering the time period after which
7 a local department is required to expunge certain reports and records of suspected
8 child abuse and neglect; and generally relating to reports of child abuse and neglect.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Family Law
11 Section 5–707
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

16
17 5–707.

18 (a) Subject to federal and State law, the Administration shall provide by
19 regulation adopted in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article:

20 (1) procedures for protecting the confidentiality of reports and records
21 made in accordance with this subtitle;

22 (2) conditions under which information may be released;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) conditions for determining in cases whether abuse, neglect, or sexual
2 abuse is indicated, ruled out, or unsubstantiated; and

3 (4) procedures for the appeal processes provided in this subtitle.

4 (b) (1) [The] **UNLESS AN INVESTIGATION UNDER § 5-706 OF THIS**
5 **SUBTITLE FINDS THAT THE REPORT IS INDICATED OR THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT HAS**
6 **RECEIVED ADDITIONAL REPORTS, THE** local department shall [expunge] **MAINTAIN** a
7 report of suspected abuse or neglect and all assessments and investigative findings **FOR**
8 **THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER A PATTERN EXISTS:**

9 [(1)] (I) [within 5] **FOR AT LEAST 10** years after the date of referral if
10 the investigation under § 5-706 of this subtitle concludes that the report is
11 unsubstantiated, and no further reports of abuse or neglect are received during the [5] **10**
12 years; and

13 [(2)] (II) [within 120 days] **FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS** after the date of
14 referral if the report is ruled out, and no further reports of abuse or neglect are received
15 during the [120 days] **5 YEARS.**

16 (2) **THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL EXPUNGE A REPORT OF**
17 **SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT AND ALL ASSESSMENTS AND INVESTIGATIVE**
18 **FINDINGS AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD FOR DETERMINING A PATTERN**
19 **ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2015.