

SENATE BILL 447

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6lr2629

CF 6lr2628

By: Senator Gile

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Abuse and Neglect – Disclosure of Reports and Records**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the circumstances under which a report or record concerning
4 child abuse or neglect may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services to
5 certain individuals; and generally relating to disclosure of reports and records of
6 child abuse and neglect.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Human Services

9 Section 1–202(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Human Services

14 Section 1–202(c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Human Services**

20 1–202.

21 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Title 5, Subtitles 7 and 12 of the Family Law
22 Article, § 1–203 of this subtitle, and this section, a person may not disclose a report or
23 record concerning child abuse or neglect.

24 (c) A report or record concerning child abuse or neglect:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) may be disclosed on request to:

2 (i) personnel of the Social Services Administration or a local
3 department of social services, law enforcement personnel, and members of
4 multidisciplinary case consultation teams, including an addiction specialist as defined in
5 Title 5, Subtitle 12 of the Family Law Article or § 5–314 of this article, who are investigating
6 a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect or providing services to or assessing
7 a child or family that is the subject of the report;

8 (ii) local or State officials responsible for the administration of child
9 protective services, juvenile services, or child care, foster care, or adoption licensing,
10 approval, or regulations, as necessary to carry out their official functions;

11 (iii) the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect or its designee, the
12 State Citizens Review Board for Children or its designee, or a child fatality review team,
13 as necessary to carry out their official functions;

14 (iv) a person who is the alleged abuser or neglecter, if that person is
15 responsible for the child's welfare and provisions are made for the protection of the identity
16 of the reporter or any other person whose life or safety is likely to be endangered by
17 disclosing the information;

18 (v) a licensed practitioner who, or an agency, institution, or program
19 that, is providing treatment or care to a child who is the subject of a report of child abuse
20 or neglect for a purpose relevant to the treatment or care;

21 (vi) a parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care
22 and custody of the child, if provisions are made for the protection of the identity of the
23 reporter or any other person whose life or safety is likely to be endangered by disclosing the
24 information;

25 (vii) 1. the appropriate public school superintendent or the
26 principal or equivalent employee of a nonpublic school that holds a certificate of approval
27 from the State or is registered with the State Department of Education to carry out
28 appropriate personnel or administrative actions following a report of suspected child abuse
29 involving a student committed by:

30 A. a public school employee in that school system;

31 B. an employee of that nonpublic school;

32 C. an independent contractor who supervises or works
33 directly with students in that school system or that nonpublic school; or

1 D. an employee of an independent contractor, including a bus
2 driver or bus assistant, who supervises or works directly with students in that school
3 system or that nonpublic school; and

4 2. if the report concerns suspected child abuse involving a
5 student committed by an employee, independent contractor, or employee of an independent
6 contractor described in item 1 of this item and employed by a nonpublic school under the
7 jurisdiction of the superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the
8 Archdiocese of Washington, or the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, the appropriate
9 superintendent of schools;

10 (viii) the director of a licensed child care facility or licensed child
11 placement agency to carry out appropriate personnel actions following a report of suspected
12 child abuse or neglect alleged to have been committed by an employee of the facility or
13 agency and involving a child who is currently or was previously under the care of that
14 facility or agency;

15 (ix) the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit of the Office of the
16 [Attorney General] **CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN** established under [Title 6, Subtitle 4]
17 **TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 4** of the State Government Article;

18 (x) subject to subsection (d) of this section, a licensed practitioner of
19 a hospital or birthing center to make discharge decisions concerning a child, when the
20 practitioner suspects that the child may be in danger after discharge based on the
21 practitioner's observation of the behavior of the child's parents or immediate family
22 members; or

23 (xi) the president of a Maryland public institution of higher
24 education, as defined in § 10–101 of the Education Article, or the Chancellor of the
25 University System of Maryland, to carry out appropriate personnel or administrative
26 actions following a report of child abuse committed:

27 1. by an employee of the institution who has on-campus
28 contact with children; or

29 2. by a contractor, an employee of a contractor, or a volunteer
30 of the institution who has on-campus contact with children; and

31 (2) may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services to:

32 (I) the operator of a child care center that is required to be licensed
33 or to hold a letter of compliance under Title 9.5, Subtitle 4 of the Education Article or to a
34 family child care provider who is required to be registered under Title 9.5, Subtitle 3 of the
35 Education Article, to determine the suitability of an individual for employment in the child
36 care center or family child care home;

1 **(II) THE ADMINISTRATOR OF A CHILD CARE CENTER OPERATED**
2 **BY OR ON BEHALF OF A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR IN A**
3 **STATE–OCCUPIED BUILDING UNDER TITLE 9.5, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE EDUCATION**
4 **ARTICLE;**

5 **(III) THE COACH, TEAM ADMINISTRATOR, OR MANAGER OF A**
6 **YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM FOR RECREATIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION OR**
7 **INSTRUCTION FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE MINORS; AND**

8 **(IV) THE ADMINISTRATOR OR OTHER APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL**
9 **OF ANY ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES ADULT SUPERVISION OR CARE AND**
10 **CONTROL OF CHILDREN.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2026.