

Chapter 185

(House Bill 646)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY adding to

Article – Family Law

Section 5–705.5

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

5–705.5.

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

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

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

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

(2) REPORTING BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO A MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM WHEN AN INVESTIGATION IMPLICATING MILITARY

PERSONNEL HAS BEEN INITIATED; AND

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.