

# HOUSE BILL 649

D4

5lr1292

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By: **Delegates Szeliga, Arikan, Chisholm, Grammer, Hutchinson, Jacobs, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Nkongolo, Otto, Pippy, Rose, and Valentine**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Children in Foster Care – Background Information**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a child placement agency to provide a background report  
4 concerning a child to a foster parent before the foster parent may consent to the  
5 placement of the child with the foster parent; and generally relating to children in  
6 foster care.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Family Law

9 Section 5–525.3

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Family Law**

15 **5–525.3.**

16 **(A) BEFORE A FOSTER PARENT MAY CONSENT TO THE PLACEMENT OF A**  
17 **CHILD WITH THE FOSTER PARENT, A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE A**  
18 **REPORT OF THE CHILD’S BACKGROUND TO THE FOSTER PARENT.**

19 **(B) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION**  
20 **SHALL INDICATE WHETHER THE CHILD HAS:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(1) HAD ANY INTERACTION WITH A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AS**  
2 **DEFINED IN § 5-701 OF THIS TITLE, INCLUDING ANY ARRESTS;**

3                   **(2) BEEN CHARGED WITH OR FOUND GUILTY OF A CRIME;**

4                   **(3) BEEN A MEMBER OF OR ASSOCIATED WITH A CRIMINAL GANG; OR**

5                   **(4) BEEN SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL.**

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2025.